

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

18 MARCH 1986

Libya

Tripoli television and Voice of Greater Arab Homeland Radio broadcast the opening address by Colonel Mu'ammarr al-Qadhafi at an international conference on imperialism, Zionism, and other issues in Tripoli 15 March. In his speech, Col al-Qadhafi called on the conference participants to undertake a "collective struggle" against "Imperialism and its filthy alliance" by establishing a "new internationalist organization" as an alternative to the United Nations. The Libyan leader claimed that smaller nations and "strugglers for freedom" have no confidence in the UN General Assembly, which has "no will of its own," and he charged that the UN Security Council is "a hindrance to the will of the Arab peoples." Al-Qadhafi also called on the conference participants to support Nicaragua and Cuba against U.S. "harsh threats" and "imperialism."

Iran-Iraq War

Iranian planes bombed an Iraqi military and economic center northwest of Qal'at Salih 18 March, inflicting "irreparable" damage on Iraqi forces, according to an Iranian military communique reported by IRNA. Earlier, Iranian ground and naval forces destroyed the Iraqi naval base at Umm Qasr and an Iraqi frigate in the Khawr 'Abdallah 17 March, according to another communique cited by IRNA. In a news conference reported by Tehran radio, the Iranian defense minister claimed that Iranian troops are positioned on three "important" roads in the Al-Faw-Basra-Umm Qasr area and that all Iraqi counterattacks in the area have been defeated.

Meanwhile, Iraqi planes attacked the Iranian refineries at Esfahan 18 March, according to an Iraqi military statement broadcast by Baghdad radio. Iraqi planes also raided a group of Iranian vehicles south of Ahvaz, an Iranian command center, and another "large maritime target" 17 March, according to an Iraqi military communique broadcast by Voice of the Masses radio. In Manama, the *GULF DAILY NEWS* reported that a Cypriot supertanker was on fire after being hit with an Exocet missile in an Iraqi attack south of Bushehr. In an interview with Egypt's *AL-JUMHURIYAH*, Iraqi Navy Commander 'Abd al-Hamid 'Abdallah announced that Iraq is determined to blockade Khark Island and to destroy all ships that approach it. 'Abdallah also claimed that the Iraqi Navy is in full control of the northern section of the Gulf.

Syria

A mercenary hired by Iraq was responsible for the explosion of a booby-trapped truck near the northern entrance to Damascus 13 March, Damascus television reported, adding that security forces had arrested the man responsible for the bombing. In a Damascus television interview, the arrested man said he was a Lebanese truck driver and that an Iraqi intelligence officer instructed him on how to detonate the bomb, adding that he was

unable to take the truck into the area of the intended target, an officers club in Syria.

French Hostages in Lebanon

'Umran Adham, an envoy of the French president, told Lebanon's *AL-NAHAR* in remarks reported by AFP that the French hostages could be released "in the next few days" if France allowed Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad to deal with the situation. Adham told the paper that Ra'd had hampered the negotiations by making "ill-considered promises" to the kidnapers, AFP added. In another development, Damascus radio reported that Syria has played a "positive role" in the French hostages affair, adding that the country will continue to support efforts to achieve the hostages' release.

OPEC Affairs

OPEC ministers meeting in Geneva held a closed session 17 March in an effort to agree on a joint approach to oil prices and production, but "moderates" and "radicals" in the organization remained far apart on key issues, AFP reported. The Nigerian oil minister later told IRNA that OPEC is prepared to lower its daily oil production ceiling in order to "improve" the market.

Egypt

Cairo radio reported that PRC President Li Xiannian met privately with President Husni Mubarak. In a banquet speech reported by MENA, Mubarak praised PRC support for Egypt's policy in the Middle East, adding that Li's visit will further strengthen PRC-Egyptian friendly ties.

Libya-Chad

Chadian Government forces intercepted a patrol unit of "Libyan provocateurs and their mercenaries" Northeast of Koro Toro 17 March, according to a military communique reported by Ndjamena radio. Chadian troops pursued the unit back to its command post at Chicha, which was then "completely destroyed," the report added.

Sudan

Government forces withdrew from two garrisons 13-14 March after reinforcement forces were ambushed and dispersed, according to the clandestine radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army (SPLA). The radio also claimed that 65 mutinous government troops were killed in a clash at Juba airport when they refused to travel to the "frontline." Juba airport was closed "indefinitely," the report added. Meanwhile, the defense minister denied reports that SPLA troops defeated government forces at Jonglei in a statement to *AL-SAHAFAH* reported by SUNA.

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Karmal Congratulates Gorbachev on Reelection*LD171815 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 17 Mar 86*

[Text] Babrak Karmal, general secretary of PDPA Central Committee and president of the DRA Revolutionary Council has sent a congratulatory message to Moscow on the occasion of the reelection of Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee.

The message expresses the hope that the resolutions of the 27th CPSU Congress, which is a firm base for the welfare of the people of the friendly Soviet Union and other countries of the world, will be achieved in the interest of peace, needed by all men throughout the world.

UN Envoy Cordovez Leaves Kabul for Islamabad*LD171506 Kabul BAKHTAR in Dari 1130 GMT 17 Mar 86*

[Text] Kabul, 17 Mar (BAKHTAR) — Diego Cordovez, the envoy and assistant to the UN secretary general, who had come to Kabul for exchange of views with the DRA authorities left today at 1100 for Islamabad.

Sarwar Yuresh, vice minister; Sakhi Daneshjo, adviser to the Foreign Affairs Ministry; the deputy head of protocol and the head of UN development program in Kabul were present at Kabul International Airport to see Diego Cordovez and his delegation off.

Before leaving for Islamabad Diego Cordovez replied to a BIA correspondent's question about his trip to the region and thanked the DRA authorities for their hospitality and cooperation. He said that a lot has been accomplished during his trip.

Having expressed satisfaction about talks in Kabul, Diego Cordovez added that the process of talks will continue in Geneva in near future.

Has Timetable for Soviet Withdrawal*OW181107 Tokyo KYODO in English 1101 GMT 18 Mar 86*

[Text] Islamabad, March 18 KYODO — United Nations mediator on Afghanistan Diego Cordovez Tuesday announced that Kabul authorities have handed him a document containing a timetable for the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan.

He also said the foreign ministers of Pakistan and Afghanistan are expected to resume their stalled negotiations for a political settlement of the Afghan problem.

However, Cordovez told newsmen at the end of ten days of shuttle diplomacy in the region that he was still awaiting a response from Kabul and Islamabad to his proposals to overcome the question of the format of the talks. He said these would be communicated to him in New York.

The United Nations mediator, who twice visited Kabul during his ten-day mission described his talks in the two capitals as very intensive, very thorough, very difficult, but very positive all the time. He said that with the delivery of the timetable for Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan he now had all the elements required for a comprehensive settlement of the Afghan problem.

Cordovez cautioned that issues that lay ahead were still complicated and involved extremely difficult negotiations and it was therefore necessary to avoid unnecessary speculation since there are a lot of people who are suffering because of this problem.

The United Nations official refused to answer a question as to whether he was awaiting a response to his proposals about the format of the talks from only one party or both and said that he has asked his interlocutors to keep secret the content of his current mission.

When asked if the statement about Afghanistan by Soviet Communist Party Secretary General Mikhail Gorbachev at the February party meeting had helped the situation, Cordovez said the situation in Afghanistan was such that everybody wanted to make a contribution. He thought that the American willingness to act as an international guarantor against non-interference in Afghanistan, his visit to Moscow, Islamabad and Kabul, and the statement of the Soviet secretary general had all helped in creating the present climate for a solution of the Afghan problem.

Mr Cordovez said he has twice briefed Iranian charge d'affaires in Islamabad about the outcome of his talks, but unfortunately could not visit Tehran on this occasion due to impending debate in the United Nations Security Council about Iranian allegations that Iraq has used chemical weapons in the Iran-Iraq war.

While Pakistan now has some 3 million Afghan refugees, about 1 million Afghan refugees are taking shelter in Iran.

Agreement Signed To Buy British, French Helicopters

BK151600 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 15 Mar 86

[Text] India is to acquire 21 Westland helicopters from Britain at a cost of 65 million pounds. An agreement for this was signed in New Delhi today by the representatives of the Helicopter Corporation of India and the Westland Company of the United Kingdom. The project cost is equivalent to about 114 crore rupees for supply of helicopters.

The delivery of the helicopters will begin next month and the entire deal will be completed by the end of next year.

The helicopters will be used to provide air transport support to the petroleum sector, for operations in hilly terrain and for emergency operations.

A press release by the Indian Airlines says that the government has also approved the purchase of 27 Dauphin helicopters from a French company at a cost of about 82 crore rupees.

Opposition Seeks Economic Measures Against Sri Lanka

BK150310 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 15 Mar 86

[Text] Leaders of nine opposition parties have called for economic measures against Sri Lanka. In a joint statement issued in New Delhi yesterday, leaders have pointed out that Sri Lanka clearly wants a military solution and during the past 1 year it has managed to equip itself militarily. The statement said as many 3,000 innocent Tamils have been killed and more than 100,000 turned into refugees. It criticized the government for what they called its vacillating policy on the ethnic problem in Sri Lanka. The leaders have called upon the government to launch a diplomatic offensive to prevent foreign powers from giving military aid to Sri Lanka. It also urged the government to raise the issue in international forums like the United Nations, the Nonaligned Movement and the commonwealth heads of government meeting.

The signatories to the statement include the leaders of the Janata, Congress-I, Bhartiya Janata Party, Indian Union Muslim League, Telugu Desam, Lok Dal, Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam, Tamil Nadu Congress-Kazhagam, and Jammu and Kashmir National Conference.

International Criminal Escapes From Tihar Jail**Inquiry Ordered**

BK170325 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 17 Mar 86

[Text] The lieutenant governor of Delhi, Mr H.L. Kapoor, has ordered an administrative enquiry into the escape of Charles Shobraj from Tihar jail in Delhi yesterday. The chairman of the

Delhi State Civil Supplies Corporation, Mr S.P. Lakhar, will head the enquiry. The police has suspended and arrested the assistant jail superintendent and five others in this connection.

As reported earlier, Charles Shobraj, who is involved in a number of criminal cases, yesterday escaped from Tihar jail with six other prisoners. Shobraj, who was charged with several cases of smuggling and other crimes, is also wanted by Interpol.

Minister Mirdha Comments

BK171611 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 17 Mar 86

[Excerpt] Seven officials of Tihar jail in Delhi, including an assistant superintendent, have been arrested in connection with the escape of Charles Shobraj and six others from the jail yesterday. Eight jail officials have been placed under suspension. The police have registered a case and are conducting investigation. This was stated by the minister of state for home affairs, Mr Ram Niwas Mirdha, in the Lok Sabha today. He was making a statement on the escape of the prisoners from the jail.

Mr Mirdha said that information about the escape has been sent to other countries also through the Interpol. A red alert has been declared and a hunt started for the escaped prisoners.

According to a spokesman of Delhi police, the case has been transferred to the crime branch.

The minister also announced that the enquiry to be conducted by Mr S.A. Lakhar, a senior officer of the Delhi administration, will determine the sequence of events and circumstance leading to the escape. It will also fix responsibility for negligence or lapses on the part of the officials at the jail. The report will be submitted within 1 month.

2 Killed, 2 Injured in Amritsar Attack

BK160903 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 16 Mar 86

[Text] In Punjab, two persons were killed and two others injured when some suspected terrorists attacked a house in village (Buttar) in Amritsar District last night. The injured included a woman. The police have cordoned off the area, and a massive hunt is on to nab the culprits.

According to an official spokesman in Chandigarh, two suspected terrorists were arrested in Gurdaspur District while they were trying to sneak in from across the border. The interrogation is continuing. Meanwhile, the police have arrested about 35 suspected terrorists from different parts of the state during the last few days. During the interrogation, they have confessed to have received training, material, and directions to indulge in subversive activities in Punjab from a neighboring country.

Demonstration Opposes Visit of U.S. Fleet to Karachi*NC172115 Paris AFP in English 2100 GMT 17 Mar 86*

[Text] Karachi, Pakistan, March 17 (AFP) — Hundreds of people shouting "Yankees go home" staged a protest rally here Monday at the first-ever visit to Pakistan of the U.S. Seventh Fleet.

The demonstrators paraded the city's main commercial centre, burnt an American flag and an effigy of U.S. President Ronald Reagan, and shouted: "Reagan — enemy of peace" and "Down with American imperialism."

Many of the protestors, estimated to number about 1,500, were members of the outlawed Pakistan Peoples' Party (PPP), the chief secular opposition to President Mohammad Ziaul Haq.

Others came from leftist parties, including the Pakistan National Party, the National Democratic Party and the far-left National Liberation Front, sources said.

The fleet is headed by the *Enterprise*, the world's biggest aircraft carrier, accompanied by two destroyers, two guided missile cruisers and a nuclear submarine.

A source in the U.S. consulate-general was quoted by the official news agency ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN (APP) as saying that the visit, which ends on Wednesday, was in connection with the "normal U.S. naval operations in the area."

'Unprovoked' Afghan Attacks on Khurram Protested*BK161726 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 16 Mar 86*

[Text] Afghan Armed Forces fired 10 rounds of artillery on Tuesday last, which landed near village (Barghi), approximately 10 miles southwest of Parachinar in Khurram Agency. As a result, two Afghan refugees were killed and three injured.

Later on Friday, Afghan Armed Forces fired 27 rounds of artillery, which landed in the area [word indistinct] miles northwest of (Karlasi) in Khurram Agency. There was, however, no loss of life or damage to property.

The Afghan charge d'affaires was summoned to the Foreign Office in Islamabad this morning and a strong protest lodged with him over the unprovoked attack.

Zia Says Kashmir To Be Resolved Under Simla*BK161612 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 16 Mar 86*

[Text] During his brief talk with newsmen in Islamabad today, President Mohammad Ziaul Haq has said that Pakistan and India have agreed to solve the Kashmir issue peacefully in the spirit of and under the Simla agreement and according to the UN resolutions. Clarifying the reports published in some newspapers, he said the impression created in these reports that the Kashmir issue is not mentioned in the Simla agreement is not healthy.

Polish Deputy Foreign Minister Arrives 14 March*BK150020 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 14 Mar 86*

[Text] The deputy foreign minister of Poland, Mr Jan Majewski, arrived in Islamabad tonight on a 3-day visit to Pakistan for bilateral consultations. During his stay, the Polish deputy foreign minister will call on the federal minister for water and power, Lieutenant General Retired Jamal Said Mian, and Minister for Commerce Prince Mohyuddin Baluch. He will also hold discussions with officials. His visit is part of periodic consultations held by Pakistan and Poland regularly over the past 2 years for exchanges on matters of bilateral and international concern.

Offers Power Generation Assistance*BK161648 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 16 Mar 86*

[Text] The Polish deputy foreign minister, Jan Majewski, and the acting foreign secretary, Abdus Sattar, held final round of formal talks in Islamabad this morning.

The Polish deputy foreign minister has said that Poland is ready to start joint ventures with Pakistan in the field of power generation. During his meeting with the federal minister for water and power, Lieutenant General Jamal Said Mian, retired, in Islamabad today, the Polish minister also said that his country is interested in setting up a coal-operated thermal power station in Pakistan. He offered to supply transformers, generators, and turbines at lower costs. He said Poland wants to cooperate with Pakistan in its (Hub Chowki) project and the Bin Qasim project No. 5.

The federal minister for water and power told him that Pakistan wants Polish assistance in the development of the Dakhna coal fields for producing electricity.

UN's Cordovez Continues Visits to Islamabad, Kabul**Meets Iranian Charge***BK141531 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 14 Mar 86*

[Text] The UN secretary general's personal representative on Afghanistan, Diego Cordovez, met with Foreign Office officials in Islamabad today. He also met with the Iranian charge d'affaires. He is expected to leave for Kabul tomorrow morning.

Returns From Kabul*BK171021 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 17 Mar 86*

[Text] The personal representative of the United Nations secretary general on Afghanistan, Mr Diego Cordovez, arrived in Islamabad from Kabul today.

President Khamene'i Sends Message to OPEC*LD170948 Tehran IRNA in English 0830 GMT 17 Mar 86*

[Text] Geneva, March 17, IRNA — President 'Ali Khamene'i, in a message to the 72nd extraordinary session of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), opened in Geneva Sunday, said that current crisis in international oil market has posed a new test to the organization. Under the present conditions, failure to make an appropriate decision will weaken the organization and result in irreparable damages, he added.

Further in the message, read by the Iranian Oil Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh, the president described the OPEC as one of the most "effective organizations of the Third World countries which had the power to defend the legitimate rights and interests of the oppressed nations."

OPEC, he added, should adopt a measure which would stabilize oil prices in international market and prevent unnecessary and damaging price fluctuations.

If OPEC members are unable to preserve unity of the organization and fail to respect the collective decisions and think of their own individual interest, the organization will be weakened. Therefore, the message added, interests of the members will be ruled by those who want to purchase its oil at the lowest rate.

The organization, by holding some two thirds of the world resources, shall be able to regain its control over the international market, it said.

Any failure of the OPEC, he added, to come up with a swift and decisive decision, will serve major oil consumers who have been trying to impose unjust conditions on the organization.

"OPEC now must prove that as a unified organization it will be able to protect national interest of its members against the plots," he concluded.

OPEC Ministers 'Determined To Stabilize' Prices*LD171934 Tehran IRNA in English 1824 GMT 17 Mar 86*

[Text] Geneva, March 17, IRNA — Oil ministers of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), here to participate in the organization's 77th meet, met in closed door session here Monday in an effort to coordinate views of member countries.

Unofficial reports from the session indicate that the oil ministers are determined to stabilize oil prices by whatever means necessary. They had expressed concern over the shaky oil prices in a previous session Sunday.

Indonesian Minister of Mining and Energy Dr. Subroto said before the closed-door session that he was confident that oil prices would reach an acceptable level. He said what was most important was to prevent any further cut in the prices.

The Nigerian oil minister told IRNA correspondent here Monday that OPEC is prepared to decrease its daily oil production ceiling to improve the market.

OPEC appointed a special group of experts to study the issue at the conclusion of its Monday morning session. It will follow up the talks on its next session Tuesday.

Current chairman of OPEC, Venezuela's Arturo Hernandez told reporters after the end of the session that the newly appointed group of experts would study technical aspects of current oil prices and would report to the conference on its conclusions.

Reaction to UN Investigation of Iraqi Chemical Weapons**Musavi on Perez de Cuellar Remarks***LD161117 Tehran IRNA in English 1110 GMT 16 Mar 86*

[Text] Tehran, March 16, IRNA — Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi said here Sunday that despite vicious attempts of superpowers to keep the present Iraqi regime in power, the Iranian combatants were strengthening their positions in the Al-Faw peninsula and were fully ready to deal a blow on the enemy in the battlefield.

Speaking after a cabinet ministers meeting Sunday morning, the prime minister referred to the recent statements of the U.N. secretary general confirming Iraqi deployment of chemical weapons and noted that such an attitude will make conditions difficult for the Iraqi ruler.

Appreciating the U.N. secretary general's statements despite international pressures, Musavi said that announcement of this stance is further indicative of the fact that Iran should continue its defence until the downfall of the Iraqi regime. Noting that the superpowers along with some regional countries, scared of Saddam Husayn's downfall, would make attempts to keep Saddam in power, the prime minister stressed that these efforts were doomed.

In its Sunday session, the Cabinet ministers studied latest developments in the war fronts and also political events in the world.

Foreign Ministry Statement*LD152042 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 15 Mar 86*

[Text] The Islamic Republic Foreign Ministry issued a statement concerning the UN delegation's report on the deployment of chemical weapons; it said:

The report by the UN mission regarding the continuing deployment of chemical weapons by Iraq was released as a document by the Security Council and stresses, in addition to other points, that: first, chemical weapons have been used not only on the frontlines but in Abadan as well; second, the deployment of chemical weapons by Iraq within the past 2 years has increased, as compared to 1984, when the last report of the UN mission was prepared.

The report also showed that international reaction has so far been inadequate and that the Iraqi regime, by stepping up the use of chemical weapons, has once again proved its utter disregard for international stands concerning important international, humane standards.

Having said that, the Foreign Ministry of the Islamic Republic of Iran draws the attention of all countries and international bodies, particularly the United Nations, to the following points:

Considering that Iraq's deployment of chemical weapons has been elucidated in the report and in view of the fact that increasing the deployment of chemical weapons will ultimately threaten the international community, all countries and the international community are expected to condemn Iraq unilaterally and unconditionally for its violation of the 1925 Geneva Protocol.

The Security Council has the duty to seriously consider this report as soon as possible, and then, in a separate resolution, condemn Iraq. It also has the duty to take necessary and practical steps to thwart this dangerous trend.

UN Called on To Condemn Iraqi CW

LD151414 Tehran IRNA in English 1148 GMT 15 Mar 86

[Text] Washington, March 15, IRNA — The Islamic Republic of Iran Friday called on the U.N. officials to take any necessary measure to condemn Iraqi deployment of chemical weapons.

The call was made by Iran's temporary charge d'affaires to the United Nations Fereyduun Damavandi Kamali at a press conference, following the release of a report by the U.N. mission which confirmed deployment of chemical weapons by Iraq.

The report gathered by the U.N. mission has been handed over to the Security Council by the U.N. secretary general.

The report said that the mission inspected areas around Abadan where "chemical weapons have been used against Iranian positions by Iraqi forces."

"Based on medical examinations and testimony of Iranian and Iraqi casualties evacuated from the Al-Faw area, chemical weapons were also used in that war zone by Iraqi forces." The report added that through the evidence examined by the specialists, the type of weapons used was aerial bombs and "the chemical used was mustard gas."

However, the mission noted in its report that the use of chemical weapons in 1986 appeared to be more extensive than in 1984.

Majlis Speaker Sends Message to UK Counterpart

LD142022 Tehran IRNA in English 1700 GMT 14 Mar 86

[Text] London, March 14, IRNA — A message from Iran's Majlis speaker calling on Britain to condemn the use of chemical weapons and the shooting down of an Iranian passenger plane by the Iraqi regime has been handed to his British counterpart.

The message from Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani was delivered to Britain's speaker of Parliament Mr Bernard Weatherall, in a meeting Thursday with Iran's charge d'affaires here Mr Jamal Sadatian.

Thousands of Iranian combatants have been affected by Iraqi gas attacks in the strategic Al-Faw peninsula during the past month. More than one hundred gassed fighters have been flown to European hospitals — including those in London — for treatment but several have already died from severe internal and external injuries.

Iraqi warplanes shot down an Iranian passenger plane on February 20, carrying among other civilians, eight Majlis deputies. None survived.

Britain has so far refused to condemn Iraq specifically for its chemical warfare against Iran and Muslim observers say it was unlikely that it would do so openly because it would mean a blow to Iraq's reputation, and would also provoke anger from Arab reactionary regimes which are among the biggest buyers of British arms.

Majlis Speaker 'Warns' U.S. on Involvement in War

LD161138 Tehran IRNA in English 1050 GMT 16 Mar 86

[Text] Tehran, March 16, IRNA — Majlis Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani Sunday described to [as received] the recent statements of the U.S. State Department officials on the Iraqi imposed war as an "impudent insult against people of the southern part of the Persian Gulf, and against Muslims and all other nations."

Hashemi-Rafsanjani was commenting on the recent U.S. warning against the escalation of the war, and that any military action by Iran against regional states would jeopardize U.S. interests.

He reiterated that there was no threat on behalf of Iran against the southern Persian Gulf states. "We have only warned them not to get involved and this is not a threat but an advise."

The Majlis speaker said the U.S. seemed to be concerned over the Islamic world more than the Muslims themselves.

The question, he said, is that how the countries of the region would tolerate such an insult and accept that "any threat against them was a threat against U.S. vital interest." this is a disgrace, he added.

Elsewhere in his remarks, [words indistinct] particularly its Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, for having fulfilled its duty in reporting the Iraqi deployment of chemical [words indistinct].

The U.N. investigation team visited Iran recently to file a report on application of chemical weapons by Iraq. The report, unlike previous occasions, explicitly declared that Iraq had deployed lethal chemical weapons against Iran's Islamic combatants.

"Although deployment of chemical weapons is a nominal portion of the Iraqi crimes against Iran still we are thankful of the U.N. and hope the Security Council and other U.N. officials as well as benevolent individuals will pursue the matter so that this [words indistinct] will be stopped."

The Majlis speaker also touched on the news of American warships anchoring off Karachi harbor and regretted that an Islamic country like Pakistan had allowed U.S. fleet, said to include guided missile cruisers, to dock at its harbor.

He described the Pakistani Government's measure as a blunder and an insult to the Pakistani nation. The Pakistani people should respond to such humiliation themselves.

The speaker emphasized however that "the Iranian nation does not fear such steps and in the course of the 5½ year old Iraqi imposed war it has proved that it fears no one but God."

The enemies of Iran, he added, have also realised that they could never think of committing any aggression against Iran or else they would have the same fate as Saddam.

Referring to the arrival of a French fleet in the Persian Gulf waters and the British Government announcement to provide assistance to Kuwait if it was requested, Hashemi-Rafsanjani asked what had happened to the Iraqi regime with all the assistance extended to it?

Military maneuvers of the U.S. and French fleet and also statements of the U.S. officials were aimed at boosting the morale of the Iraqi commanders, the speaker said. Such moves, he added, also showed confusion of these powers.

"We hope that nations and governments of the region will not be lured to such statements."

The Majlis speaker urged governments supporting the Iraqi ruler to refrain from doing so and described Saddam as "a person on his deathbed."

All the Islamic Republic of Iran wanted, he stressed, was security of the region, freedom of the nations and curtailment of the hands of the aggressors.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani praised presence of vigilant Iranian youths at war fronts and said that all these provocations and moves of the big powers were instigated by the resistance of the Iranian volunteers at the battlefields.

Under the present conditions, he added, more Iranian youth should join the war fronts.

Foreign Ministry on Human Rights Resolution
GF160632 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
0430 GMT 16 Mar 86

[Text] The Foreign Ministry of the Islamic Republic of Iran has issued a statement dealing with the recent resolution of the Commission on Human Rights. Here is the statement:

In the name of God. During the 42d meeting of the Commission on Human Rights, a group of Western countries imposed on this commission a political resolution in connection with the Islamic Republic of Iran. This resolution was passed under such circumstances that the Islamic Republic of Iran repeated its invitation throughout the commission's discussions to any prominent, international, and neutral personality from the Third World or the Islamic world who is familiar with international and Islamic law to visit Iran to clarify the truth for the world.

Another segment of the Foreign Ministry statement says: The group of West European countries, especially those with a long history of colonialism, were terribly worried by the Islamic Republic of Iran's invitation and, with the utmost speed, passed a resolution to prevent a Commission on Human Rights' representative from visiting Iran which would bring out the truth.

The statement of our country's Foreign Ministry also says: The disagreement of the Islamic and nonaligned nations with this resolution shows just how much the Western countries were isolated when it came to passing the resolution.

The Islamic Republic of Iran, considers this resolution worthless and void, and hereby announces that this position will only result in strengthening Islam's judicial principles and will spread the wave of the Islamic movement throughout the world against the corrupt Western ways. The Islamic Republic of Iran will examine carefully the positions taken by countries in this political resolution.

Montazeri Meets Revolution High Council Members
LD142319 Tehran IRNA in English 1800 GMT 14 Mar 86

[Text] Tehran, March 14, IRNA — The future spiritual leader of the Islamic revolution of Iran, Ayatollah Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri received members of High Council in Charge of Cultural Revolution in Universities in Qom Thursday.

At the meeting, Ayatollah Montazeri outlined the objective of the cultural revolution and also reminded the visitors of their duties. He furthermore stressed the importance of training committed professors for universities in a bid to make the country self-sufficient in this respect.

The revered ayatollah, then, gave some guidelines on seeing to the needs of university professors.

Defense Minister Reviews 'Val-Fajr' Operations
LD171215 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 17 Mar 86

[Text] In a press conference broadcast by radio and television this morning, Colonel Jalali, the defense minister, explained the military significance of the "Val-Fajr-8" and 9 operations. According to a Central News Unit correspondent, the defense minister began his remarks by saying: "Val-Fajr-8" operations were among the most unique military operations in the history of warfare; they were a golden page in the history of Islamic wars

against infidels. These operations will in the future be analyzed and studied in world military academies as unique operations.

The defense minister added: The crossing of the wide Arvand River by the Islamic combatants was an extremely difficult and heroic operation. As far as military analysts are concerned, the crossing of such a river would have required the erection of several bridges. With the enemy controlling the far bank of the river, however, building a bridge was impossible. The enemy never imagined that the Islamic warriors could possibly cross the river. Our combatants, however, applied a totally new method in the history of warfare and managed to cross the Arvand River and implement their plan.

Continuing his remarks, the defense minister said: In the "Val-Fajr-8" operations the Islamic warriors strangled the enemy, with the Saddam regime losing its best and most efficient forces. Iraq's 7th Army was smashed, the 10th Armored Brigade wiped out, and the presidential guard, considered the most powerful force in Iraq, was totally wiped out. On the basis of information received from Iraq, Saddam is now recruiting new personnel to reorganize his destroyed guard.

Referring to machinations by the Iraqi regime concerning the advance of its forces towards Al-Faw and the retreat of Iranian forces, Col Jalali said: Despite the fact that the Saddam regime has staked its reputation on recapturing Al-Faw and stopping further advances by the Islamic combatants, it has failed to achieve anything in the Al-Faw sector. Right now, the Islamic combatants are stationed on the three important roads, the Al-Faw-Basrah, Umm Qasr, and the old Al-Faw-Basrah; so far, all enemy counterattacks have been defeated.

He then viewed "Val-Fajr-8" and 9 operations as a warning to global arrogance and the reactionary states of the region against their support for Saddam. He said: The "Val-Fajr-8" and 9 operations were totally different in nature. The "Val-Fajr-8" operations were amphibious, involving the crossing of the river, and took place in a tropical region, whereas "Val-Fajr-9" operations were in hilly terrain that is impassable and cold. They demonstrated the combat ability of the Islamic combatants, who are able to carry out victorious operations anywhere and under any circumstances.

He then explained the extraordinary power of the air defense and the ability of the Air Force jets during the "Val-Fajr-8" operations, saying: By using our own experts we managed to surmount the shortcomings in our air defense and, with the new initiatives we applied to our missile defense, we were able to deal deadly blows to the Iraqi Air Force. He added: During "Val-Fajr-8" operations the Islamic Republic Navy maintained its absolute sovereignty in the Persian Gulf and considerably assisted the Islamic combatants. By cooperating with the naval units of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps and making use of each other's experiences, we crossed Arvand River and thus opened a new chapter in naval warfare.

Col Jalali denied claims made by the Iraqi regime to the effect that its Navy had pounded naval targets. He said: The Iraqi Navy, since the beginning of the war, has had no role in it. Having

closed the Khawr 'Abdallah waterways, we have crippled the Iraqi Navy.

In conclusion, he explained the activities of the defense industry and, citing its extraordinary achievements in recent years, referred to the industry as the most important industrial sector in safeguarding the country's independence. He then said: The defense industry has taken long strides toward self-sufficiency. By making use of the creativity of its experts, while increasing and diversifying production, the defense industry has created new production lines. It has achieved impressive successes in producing modern weapons and reproducing and repairing sophisticated weapons.

Majlis Approves Revolution Committee Constitution

LD131729 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian

1030 GMT 13 Mar 86

[Excerpt] Our correspondent has sent the following report on today's open session of the Islamic Consultative Assembly:

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. The Islamic Consultative Assembly held an open session this morning, during which the Constitution of the Committee of the Islamic Revolution of Iran [CIRI] [as heard] was raised for a second debate and approved.

According to this Constitution the CIRI is a law and order institution under the supreme command of the leader and under the supervision of the Interior Ministry. It aims at establishing security and safeguarding law and order in the country to guard the Islamic revolution of Iran and its achievements within the framework of the law.

The CIRI's duties and tasks are as follows: Waging a lawful fight against elements and movements that would undermine the country's security in coordination with the Information Ministry; cooperating with the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps in waging a lawful struggle against agents and courses of events aimed at sabotage, overthrowing the system of the Islamic Republic, or taking steps against the Islamic revolution of Iran; reporting incoming security reports and intelligence to the Information Ministry and carrying out security missions entrusted to it by the Information Ministry; lawfully fighting against elements engaged in procuring, distributing, and consuming narcotics, procuring and distributing forbidden goods, and committing the religiously reprehensible actions mentioned in the Islamic Punishment Law.

The gendarmerie and police are duty-bound to cooperate with the CIRI, when the need arises, in carrying out the following tasks: Cooperating with the gendarmerie toward safeguarding and controlling the country's borders; similar coordinated measures with other forces [as heard] toward collecting arms, ammunition, equipment, and forbidden military and law-and-order communications means; and supervising public places in carrying out entrusted missions. The CIRI, in carrying out these missions, shall act as the law enforcement arm of the judiciary, and when necessary, will make use of the organized forces of the meek, the mobilization of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps,

as deemed fit by the Security Council or the local Security Council.

The CIRI will cooperate in matters of relief work with the appropriate organs in the eventuality of disasters or unforeseen incidents; cooperate with the Army and Islamic Revolution Guards Corps when necessary; and will undertake ideological, political, military, and law-and-order training for the guards of the CIRI toward gaining the necessary power in carrying out entrusted missions.

In accordance with other articles of this Constitution the crimes connected with the special military and law-and-order task of the members of the CIRI will be investigated by military tribunals, but their common crimes or those which they might commit while acting as the arm of the Justice Ministry will be investigated by ordinary courts.

The government is also duty-bound, at most within 9 months from the date of the approval of this law, to present to the Majlis a draft bill covering regulations for the employment and securing the needs of the CIRI members regarding salaries, housing, and treatment while working and during retirement and disability.

Reportage on Official's Attendance at Palme Funeral

Meets Prime Minister Carlsson

LD141858 Tehran IRNA in English 1810 GMT 14 Mar 86

[Text] Stockholm, March 14, IRNA — Iranian Political Deputy Prime Minister 'Ali Reza Mo'ayeri, here to participate in the burial ceremony of the late Swedish premier, Olof Palme, met and conferred with Sweden's new Prime Minister Ingvar Carlsson here Friday.

At the meeting, the Iranian deputy prime minister expressed hope that political, economic and cultural relations between Iran and Sweden would expand.

Mo'ayeri also expressed hope that the new Swedish Government would follow Palme's independent policies on global issues and preservation of international conventions.

The deputy prime minister furthermore said that the Iraqi regime has recently resumed its use of chemical weapons against Iranian Muslim forces in the warfronts and that Iranian victims of Iraqi toxic gases were presently hospitalized in Sweden. In response, the new Swedish prime minister said that the foreign policy of his country would remain unchanged, noting that he thought the expansion of Tehran-Stockholm relations would be in the interest of the two countries.

Meets Perez de Cuellar

LD150633 Tehran IRNA in English 0614 GMT 15 Mar 86

[Text] Stockholm, March 15, IRNA — Iran's Deputy Prime Minister for Political Affairs 'Ali Reza Mo'ayeri and U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar met and discussed the U.N. stance vis-a-vis Iraq-Iran war, here Friday night.

Mo'ayeri is here heading an Iranian delegation to take part in the funeral ceremony of the late Swedish Prime Minister Olof Palme. The U.N. secretary general is also here to attend the ceremony.

During the meeting Mo'ayeri said that although the recent Security Council's resolution was not acceptable by the Islamic Republic of Iran for its one-sided stance favouring Iraq, Iran praised efforts of the U.N. Secretary General for the materialisation of justice.

Referring to numerous instances of Iraqi infringement of international regulations including deployment of chemical weapons, attack on cargo ships, oil tankers, residential areas and a passenger plane, Mo'ayeri said that Iran expected international bodies to react against Iraqi violations.

But, he added, the Iranian people were finally forced to confront Iraqi aggressions by embarking on retaliatory measures.

In reply, the U.N. secretary general said that both he and the United Nations were against deployment of chemical weapons, attack on residential areas and threatening of shipping.

Therefore, he noted, efforts were being made to find a just solution to put an end to the war, adding that he would also continue his endeavours in this field.

To this end, an expert delegation had visited Iran to make investigations on the deployment of chemical weapons and compiled a report in this connection which had been handed over to the Security Council, Perez de Cuellar said.

Holds Press Conference

LD151059 Tehran IRNA in English 0840 GMT 15 Mar 86

[Text] Stockholm, March 15, IRNA — The political deputy prime minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran, 'Ali Reza Mo'ayeri, called on international organizations to make a serious effort to halt further Iraqi infringement of international regulations.

Mo'ayeri heading an Iranian delegation to take part in the funeral ceremony of late Swedish Prime Minister Olof Palme, was speaking at a press conference held at Iranian Embassy here Friday.

He stressed that at present there was no guarantee to prevent continuation of violation of international laws, therefore, he added, Iran will continue its sacred defence against these aggressions.

"Today", he said "Muslim people of Iran are determined to punish the aggressor and uproot the aggression in order to establish security in the region."

Referring to the recent victorious offensives launched by the Iranian combatants, Mo'ayeri said that the offensives were aimed at halting Iraqi attacks against cargo ships by taking over its missile bases.

The offensives, he added, launched after a long period of tolerating indifference of international organizations, were also aimed at preventing the Baghdad regime from committing further inhumane acts and forcing it to accept Iran's conditions.

The Iranian official stressed that the Islamic Republic of Iran was never interested in using military means to solve its problems, adding that presence of 60,000 Iraqi POW's in Iran was a good proof to this.

"We respect the Iraqi people and are not willing to destroy their property. What we are seeking is the punishment of the aggressor," Mo'ayeri said.

If the Iraqi imposed war did not come to an end with the punishment of the aggressor, it would create the possibility for others either in the region or outside to trample rights of others by resorting to force, he said.

He reiterated that as the Islamic Republic of Iran had repeatedly emphasised, Iran did not intend to assign the future ruling system [words indistinct] people should determine their own fate and government.

Asked if the late Swedish prime minister had made any improvement in its mission on Iraq-Iran war, Mo'ayeri said that Palme was fully aware of Iran's stance and had made great efforts for the observance of international regulations. But, he added, due to the Iraqi regime's indifference towards U.N. secretary general's message and the role Olof Palme played in this connection, these efforts proved fruitless.

On the appointment of another envoy by U.N. secretary general to replace Palme, Mo'ayeri said that as long as these efforts were aimed at respecting Iran's conditions and observance of international regulations, they would also be respected by the Islamic Republic of Iran.

He stressed that the silence of international organizations vis-à-vis Iraqi deployment of chemical weapons, its attacks on residential areas, cargo ships and passenger planes which claimed the lives of over 40 people, had further encouraged the Baghdad regime in committing these crimes.

Meets Foreign Leaders

LD161104 Tehran IRNA in English 1046 GMT 16 Mar 86

[Text] Stockholm, March 16, IRNA — The Iranian deputy prime minister for political affairs, 'Ali Reza Mo'ayeri, who is currently in Sweden to take part in the funeral ceremonies held for the late Swedish Prime Minister Olof Palme, met and conferred with a number of officials of other countries who are in that country to attend the ceremony, Saturday.

In a meeting with the Cuban vice-president, Mo'ayeri discussed bilateral relations and the anti-imperialistic stance of the two countries. The two sides also exchanged views on further cooperation among revolutionary and progressive non-aligned countries prior to the New Delhi conference of the movement's foreign ministers and also the summit in Harare.

They talked about the forthcoming visit of the Cuban foreign minister to Iran.

Meanwhile, Mo'ayeri met with the former Tanzanian president, Julius Nyerere who said that Iran was the best example of a non-aligned country in the world.

The Iranian official briefed Nyerere of the latest developments in the Iraqi imposed war and called for an international move to condemn Iraqi war crimes.

Mo'ayeri met with Pakistani foreign minister, and Turkish interior minister in which he discussed friendly bilateral relations with the two neighbourly countries.

Returns to Tehran

GF170637 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
0430 GMT 17 Mar 86

[Text] Mr Mo'ayeri, the prime minister's political deputy and special emissary to Sweden, returned to Tehran last night after participating in the interment rites of the late Swedish Prime Minister Olof Palme and after meetings with leaders of some foreign countries.

The prime minister's political deputy answered correspondents' questions during an interview at the airport to which we draw your attention:

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent] Mr Mo'ayeri, could you please tell us the salient points of your visit to Sweden in connection with the last rites of the Swedish prime minister and about your talks with officials representing other countries?

[Mo'ayeri] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. We went on this trip to participate in the last rites of the late Swedish prime minister and met Mr Carlsson the Swedish prime minister. After expressing condolences on the loss of Mr Palme, a loss for the government and people of Sweden, we discussed bilateral relations. The prime minister repeatedly stressed the need to expand mutual ties and stated that Sweden's policy is entirely neutral.

We also met with the UN secretary general and discussed the latest developments on the battlefronts and the violation of the rules of war by Iraq. Fortunately he was aware of the report by the UN team sent to investigate the use of chemical weapons and write a report for the UN secretary general — who in turn submitted it to the UN Security Council — in which Iraq was clearly mentioned as the country using chemical weapons in the war. The secretary general objected to the violation of international norms, the use of chemical weapons, attacks on residential areas, and threats to international shipping. He repeatedly emphasized opposition to these actions by Iraq.

We also had the opportunity to meet with the former Japanese prime minister, the Pakistani prime minister, the Turkish interior minister, the Cuban vice president, the Libyan representative, and others from friendly countries who had come to attend the

ceremonies. We talked about the imposed war, the victories of the Islamic combatants, and bilateral issues. [End recording]

Sheikh ol-Eslam Heads Delegation to Libya

Arrives in Tripoli

LD160813 Tehran IRNA in English 0808 GMT 16 Mar 86

[Text] Tripoli, March 15 IRNA — Political deputy at the Foreign Affairs Ministry of the Islamic Republic of Iran Hoseyn Sheikh ol-Eslam arrived here Saturday night to take part in the second international conference on campaign against imperialism, Zionism, racism and reactionary regimes.

Sheikh ol-Eslam, heading a high-ranking delegation, was welcomed by a number of Libyan officials of the Iranian Embassy here.

Meanwhile a delegation of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic revolution of Iraq, headed by the chairman of the assembly's Executive Committee, Dr Ja'fari, arrived here to take part in the conference.

The conference, also attended by liberation and freedom-seeking movements from various parts of the world was inaugurated by the Libyan leader Colonel Mu'ammarr ai-Qadhdhafi, Saturday night.

The Iranian delegation is due to meet high-ranking Libyan officials to discuss bilateral relations and international issues.

Official Comments on Revolution

LD171805 Tehran IRNA in English 1752 GMT 17 Mar 86

[Text] Tripoli, March 17, IRNA — Deputy for International Affairs of the Islamic Propagation Organization Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad 'Ali Taskhiri Sunday said that the Islamic revolution cannot confine itself to solving the problems merely within Iran remain indifferent to those of the outside world and oppressed nations. [sentence as received]

Speaking at an international conference on struggle against imperialism, Zionism and reactionism here Hoj. Taskhiri said the Islamic revolution has gone beyond the Iranian borders and that Imam Khomeyni is now a symbol of struggle against the U.S. and its interests.

The U.S. found the Islamic revolution as contrary to its interests Taskhiri said, and so it assigned Saddam Husayn to invade Iran for the overt purpose of overthrowing the Islamic Republic, he added.

Taskhiri also termed the U.S. threats against Iran and Libya as "futile".

Representatives from 300 revolutionary movements throughout the globe enthusiastically responded to Taskhiri's remarks.

Western Allegations of Economic Problems Denied

LD142145 Tehran IRNA in English 1840 GMT 14 Mar 86

[Text] London, March 14, IRNA — What have bananas and coffee got to do with the Iranian economy? Apparently a lot, according to a *LOS ANGELES TIMES* writer.

In fact the situation is so bad that a Western diplomat has also been quoted by the writer as saying that "it is killing Iranians."

Charles P. Wallace in a report from Tehran found the shortage of the two were the most significant signs that indicated that the Iranian economy "continues to haunt the government more than any other problem."

"Precious" bananas, he claims, are sold individually for dollars 10 each [as received] and a single can of foreign brand coffee carries a price tag of dollars 80 [as received] in Tehran.

To a Western reader, such prices even for unessential goods sound outrageous, and needless to say, the *LOS ANGELES TIMES* reporter has made an attempt to provoke that feeling.

However, he does not bother to say in his entire article, which leads with these observations, the fact that bananas have never been part of the fruit diet of Iranians. Neither has coffee been consumed to any degree that a shortages would bother anyone.

This sort of obvious malice towards the Islamic Republic is demonstrated in the rest of the article as well, which, interestingly, was not only been published in the *LOS ANGELES TIMES* Thursday, but also in the *INTERNATIONAL HERALD TRIBUNE* and the British daily, *THE GUARDIAN*.

It is only until halfway through the article that the reader is told briefly that the government provides basic foodstuffs to the people at subsidised prices. There is also no reference to the truth that rice, for example, has now become an important part of the daily meal of the people in the rural areas, while before the revolution it was an exclusive meal of the urbanised people.

Nor is it acknowledged that at least 15,000 villages have been provided with electricity since the revolution, opening the doors for a better life for millions of the impoverished, an impressive number of whom now also have piped water, schools, better roads and public facilities and services.

On broader economic matters, there is no reference to the truth that Iran has managed to fight a massive war and maintain a revolution without any foreign borrowing. The writer has also failed to make the point that Iran is one among a handful of nations that has almost no foreign debt.

According to the Bank of International Settlements, Iran has increased its foreign reserves by more than dollars 1.3 billion in Western banks since March last year. This was not pointed out either.

The choice of reflecting the situation in Iran from a biased and unjustified point of view instead of an honest and objective one as in this case, has often been made in the past.

There are no signs that this Western attitude in particular is changing in any reasonable degree but sooner or later the truth about the Islamic Republic will prevail over cheap propaganda.

Tehran Notes Bush's Upcoming Visit to Gulf

GF180647 *Tehran Domestic Service in Persian*
0330 GMT 18 Mar 86

[Text] George Bush, past head of the CIA and vice president of Ronald Reagan, will be visiting Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Oman, and North Yemen from 24 March [date as heard] to 12 April. According to the French news agency, in announcing this report White House spokesman Larry Speakes emphasized the importance of the United States strategic interests in the Persian Gulf and Saudi Arabia. He said: This visit shows the U.S. interest in the security of this region. He added that the recent Iranian operations would be the main topic of discussions between the U.S. officials and the officials of Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Oman, and North Yemen.

Anti-U.S. Demonstrations Reportedly Held in Karachi

LD171755 *Tehran Domestic Service in Persian*
1630 GMT 17 Mar 86

[Text] In protest against the visit of the U.S. fleet to Karachi, thousands of this city's inhabitants staged vast anti-American demonstrations. According to a report of the Central News Unit from Islamabad, the demonstrators condemned Pakistan for permitting the U.S. fleet to dock in this port and demanded withdrawal of the U.S. fleet. The demonstrators, chanting the slogans of "Death to the United States" and "Death to the U.S. allies," distributed banners and placards among the people that said: We shall not permit the United States to misuse our Islamic land; Yankee, Yankee, go home; We condemn the visit of the U.S. fleet in Pakistan's territory; Death to Israel; The United States is an enemy of Pakistan, Libya, Iran, and Palestine, and the United States is the real terrorist in the world. Afterwards the demonstrators set the U.S. flag and an effigy of Reagan on fire.

On the basis of this report, Pakistani police attacked the demonstrators with sticks and truncheons and arrested at least 50 of them. The demonstrations, which ended with the police intervention, continued for an hour.

Commentary on U.S. Creation of Tension in Gulf

LD161352 *Tehran Domestic Service in Persian*
1108 GMT 16 Mar 86

[Station political commentary]

[Excerpts] Within the context of its general aggressive policies against the Islamic world, the U.S. Administration recently warned that the escalation of the war in the Persian Gulf is a major threat to U.S. interests. This is the third time since the "Val-Fajr-8" offensive began that the Americans have raised the question of their interests in the region.

As for the recent U.S. warning, now that the Iraqi 'Aflaqist regime has demonstrated its inability to recapture the areas liberated during "Val-Fajr-8," the U.S. Administration has become even more apprehensive than before and once again resorted to issuing, as it were, threats and warnings. The only difference this time however, is that these threats and warnings give the appearance of protection for the Persian Gulf's southern littoral states.

In order to create a climate of tension, the U.S. State Department spokesman raised the question of selling air and sea defensive missiles to the tune of \$354 million to Saudi Arabia. In the meantime, he said that the sale of the weapons is a definite indication of U.S. determination to defend itself in the region. The new warning issued by the U.S. State Department concerning the recent developments in this imposed war is an emphatic sign of the Reagan administration's apprehension about the trend of events in this part of the world. This trend, despite the past attempts by Washington and contrary to the wishes of world arrogance, is changing.

Reagan's administration, lacking any pretext to interfere and increase its military presence in the region, has now fabricated an excuse pretending that the security of the Persian Gulf's southern littoral states, as it were, is threatened.

The tone of voice of the U.S. State Department's spokesman leaves no doubt that the U.S. Administration is worried about the recent developments in the imposed war as well as the state of the Iraqi 'Aflaqist regime. As declared by our country's Foreign Ministry spokesman, the United States is now trying to create an artificial tension in the region and prepare the ground in order to escalate the need for the presence of U.S. arrogance in the Persian Gulf.

The changes brought about as the result of the victories of Islamic combatants during the "Val-Fajr-8" operations have rendered the supporters of the Iraqi regime so anxious and alarmed that each of them, under various pretexts, while loitering in the Persian Gulf's southern littoral states, is issuing some sort of so-called threat to the Islamic Republic. For example, take the minister of state at the British Foreign Office who visited the region. Having visited Bahrain, he said in Qatar that if the war is extended to Kuwait, then Britain would supply that country with military aid. He said that Britain would give swift consideration to any request of this kind considering the circumstances. The credibility of the decrepit British colonialism disappeared more than 10 years ago in the Persian Gulf, so the so-called threats issued by that country's envoy is nothing but a conspiracy to engender an artificial tension in the region and prepare the ground to increase the need for its aggressive presence in this part of the world.

The United States and the European colonialist countries must bear in mind that the era of threats and intimidations, the plundering of nations' resources, is over; they can no longer manipulate the interests of the alert nations of the region through policies of interference. What is happening in the region is the business of its peoples; it is the region's states which make decisions about events here.

SAIRI Official Condemns French 'Procrastination'*LD152244 Tehran IRNA in English 1843 GMT 15 Mar 86*

[Text] Tehran, March 15, IRNA — French charge d'affaires to Tehran Pierre la France Saturday said that the two Iraqi students Fawzi Hamzah and Hasan Khayr al-Din have not yet left Iraq.

In his contact with the head of the Executive Committee of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq (SAIRI), Dr. Ja'fari, La France said the students will probably arrive in Paris Monday.

Ja'fari in return condemned procrastination of the French Government and said such collaboration with the Iraqi regime aims at providing a solution for France's election problems (March 16).

France will bear consequences of the issue, Ja'fari said, and Iraqi mujahideen all over the world would respond to the French act, he added.

Basrah University Used To Accommodate Iraqi Wounded*LD142037 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 14 Mar 86*

[Text] Considering the mounting Iraqi army casualties, the University of Basrah actually has been shut down and is being used to accommodate wounded and maimed troops. Quoting a report in the news bulletin issued by the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq, the Central News Unit reports that eye witnesses leaving Basrah have confirmed that the casualties suffered by the Iraqi Army are so enormous that in addition to hospitals and other centers used for this purpose, the University of Basrah classrooms also have been allocated to accommodate Iraqi troops.

Iraqi 'Defectors' To Patrol Occupied Areas*LD170437 Tehran IRNA in English 1822 GMT 16 Mar 86*

[Text] Tehran, March 16, IRNA — Iraqi defectors who have received military training are to be stationed in liberated regions of Al-Faw and Val-Fajr-9 operation region, northern Al-Sulaymaniyah, beginning March 19 in order to police the liberated areas, announced head of Central Headquarters of Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC) 'Ali Reza Afshar, here Sunday.

Afshar added that the Iraqi nation is sufficiently prepared to struggle against the Ba'thist regime at home. He added that this movement will ultimately liberate Iraq from the clutches of the criminal Ba'thist rulers.

The IRGC official called on Iraqi forces not to obstruct the advancement of the powerful Islamic forces but rather join Iran's Muslim forces before it may be too late for them to do so.

Reportage on Combat Operations in War With Iraq**Umm Qasr Naval Base Destroyed***LD181002 Tehran IRNA in English 0935 GMT 18 Mar 86*

[Text] Khatam ol-Anbiya' HQ., March 18, IRNA — The ground forces and naval units of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC) in a successful operation Monday destroyed the only Iraqi naval base and jetty in Umm Qasr, a communique released by the Khatam ol-Anbiya' HQ. said here Tuesday.

In addition, in the same operation the ground forces and naval units of the IRGC destroyed an Iraqi frigate in Khawr 'Abdallah, in Al-Faw region, the communique added.

A number of Iraqi personnel of the base and the crew of the battleships were killed or wounded.

The Iranian combatants are checking any Iraqi movement in Khawr 'Abdallah.

'Several' Wounded in Esfahan Raid*LD181557 Tehran IRNA in English 1555 GMT 18 Mar 86*

[Text] Esfahan, March 18, IRNA — Iraqi war planes bombed the vicinity of Esfahan Tuesday at noon wounding several civilians who were transferred to hospital.

Medical sources said the victims are in good condition.

The planes had earlier violated the air space of the city.

Communique No 2413*LD181620 Tehran IRNA in English 1605 GMT 18 Mar 86*

[Text] Tehran, March 18, IRNA — Iran's jet fighters bombarded an Iraqi economic center at 31.37 north and 47.11 east coordinates, at 09:45 a.m. (06:15 hours GMT) Tuesday inflicting irreparable losses on the Iraqis, according to a military communique here Tuesday.

The Communique Number 2413 of the Joint Staff Command of the Armed Forces says that the Iranian jet fighters after successfully carrying out their mission shot down two Iraqi helicopters in the region on their way back to their bases. The planes all returned to their bases safely.

The command says that the Iranian artillery fire on Iraqi positions in the western fronts Monday killed and wounded at least 10 Iraqi soldiers and set fire to three supply and engineering vehicles of theirs.

In the western fronts, the communique says, Iranian Muslim combatants continued manning their positions and responded to Iraqi artillery fire inflicting heavy casualties and losses on them and silencing their fire.

Artillery exchange was heavier in the Majnun Islands and in Al-Faw. The movement of an Iraqi tank unit in areas overlooking

Chazabeh was also checked according to the military communique.

The Iraqi forces in a bid to stop Iranian attacks in Panjwin concentrated their operations on fortifying their positions, but most of their operations including engineering, transport of armoured and infantry units in the region were checked by Iranian Muslim forces, reports the joint staff command.

Iraqi casualties suffered a number of dead and wounded in the northwestern fronts Monday and two vehicles, several observation posts and parts of their defensive positions were destroyed according to the communique.

Khomeyni's Health Called "Very Critical"

GF181427 (Clandestine) Radio Iran in Persian
1330 GMT 18 Mar 86

[Excerpts] A rumor is circulating in Tehran that Khomeyni's health is very critical and that almost all of his relatives are expecting him to die. We have a phone report from our colleague:

[Begin recording] The rumor of Ruhollah Khomeyni's illness in Iran has caused grave concern within government circles. Reports leaking out of Jamaran talk of (?incurable) diseases of a man, who is very close to 100, entering a dangerous state. The possibility that Khomeyni may suffer a brain stroke or a heart attack due to the hardening and closing of some arteries has not been discounted by his attending physicians. Tehran medical circles note that Khomeyni is suffering from diseases in his urinary tract, eyes, kidney, and heart. [End recording]

Correction to Bulgarian Minister Meets Majlis Speaker

The following correction pertains to the item subheaded "Received by Hashemi-Rafsanjani," published in the 14 March South Asia *DAILY REPORT* on page 12:

Paragraph three, line three should read: ...gained great achievements in Iran and have now gained... (supplying indistinct words, rewording)

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

19 MARCH 1986

Iran-Iraq War

Iraqi naval forces sank a "medium-sized maritime target" southeast of the Nowruz oil fields 18 March, according to an Iraqi military communique broadcast by Voice of the Masses radio. Other Iraqi military statements cited by INA later announced that 46 Iraqi planes attacked and destroyed Iranian military concentrations between Hamidiyeh and Ahvaz, while other Iraqi planes raided Khark Island 19 March.

For its part, Iran claimed that over 50 Iraqi troops were killed or injured during an Iranian patrol operation north of the "salt lake" on the al-Faw front the night of 18-19 March, according to a military statement reported by Tehran radio. In Tehran, the military information headquarters warned that Iran would "heavily pound" industrial targets in Iraq if attacks on non-military targets in Iran continued, IRNA reported.

Libya

Voice of Greater Arab Homeland radio broadcast the political communique issued at the end of the second conference of the International Center for Combating Imperialism, Zionism, Racism, Reaction, and Fascism, which was held in Tripoli 15-18 March. In the communique the conference hailed Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhafi's stance in confronting U.S. "aggressive threats and provocative maneuvers" off the Libyan coast, and it stressed that the Gulf of Sidra "is part of the Libyan Arab territories and is thereby under absolute Libyan Arab sovereignty." The conference also called for the formation of a new international organization that would embody "the will of the vanquished, small, peace- and justice-loving nations" and act as an alternative to the United Nations.

Chad

The attack by Chadian Government forces on the command post of the "Islamic Legion" at Chicha 17 March resulted in the death of 235 members of the "Libyan annexationist army," including 19 Libyans, and the capture of 186 war prisoners, according to a Chadian military communique broadcast by Ndjamena radio.

French Train Blast Claimed

The "Committee of Solidarity With Arab and Middle-East Political Prisoners" claimed responsibility for a bomb which

exploded on board a French TGV high-speed train outside Paris 17 March, injuring 10 people, AFP reported. The group sent a letter to AFP warning of further attacks unless 3 Lebanese and Armenian prisoners being held in French jails were released, the report added.

French Hostages in Lebanon

Unofficial French envoy Razzah Ra'd said he is "suspending" his efforts to free the French hostages held in Lebanon because of the French Government's failure to clear up some "false allegations" concerning his role, Paris radio reported. Ra'd added that someone pretending to be him had disseminated "disinformation" to a news agency in Beirut in order to eliminate his credibility with the "fundamentalists." Meanwhile, the French Embassy in Lebanon received information that Iran has instructed Hizballah party gunmen to "kidnap more Frenchmen," Voice of Lebanon radio reported.

OPEC Affairs

An OPEC agreement on ways to bolster the current oil market is "further away than ever," Kuwaiti Oil Minister Shaykh 'Ali Al Khalifah said at the OPEC conference meeting in Geneva, AFP reported. He also claimed that "if Norway and Britain will not cooperate, we will not make much progress" in increasing crude oil prices, AFP added. At a new conference the evening of 18 March, OPEC Conference President Arturo Hernandez Grisanti confirmed that the OPEC ministers have thus far made "no major decisions," OPECNA reported. Hernandez also announced that five OPEC ministers are to meet with representatives of the five non-OPEC oil-producing countries of Angola, Egypt, Malaysia, Mexico, and Oman 19 March. In Riyadh, an official Saudi spokesman said that the allegation by Iranian President 'Ali Khamene'i that Saudi Arabia is exporting three times as much oil as its OPEC quota is "absolutely untrue" and that in reality the Kingdom is exporting only one-half of its OPEC quota, Riyadh radio reported.

DRA-Pakistan

Four DRA planes bombed the Karsha border post in the Kurram area of Pakistan 18 March, killing 5 paramilitary troops and wounding 14 others, AFP reported citing sources in Peshawar.

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USSR Minister of Culture Demichev Visits Delhi**Cultural Agreement Signed**

*BK190519 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 19 Mar 86*

[Text] India and the Soviet Union have signed a cultural agreement for holding festivals of the two countries. Under the agreement signed in New Delhi, a festival of India will be held in the Soviet Union in June next year coinciding with the 40th anniversary of India's independence. A Soviet festival will be held in India in November coinciding with the 70th anniversary of the Soviet revolution. The festivals will be held in all major cities of both the countries, lasting for 1 year.

The minister for human resources development, Mr. Narasimha Rao, and the visiting Soviet minister of culture, Mr. P.N. Demichev, signed the agreement. The festivals will cover exchanges in books, science and technology, performing arts, film festivals, sports, and programs of youth, women, and children.

Gorbachev To Visit in 1986

HK190625 Hong Kong AFP in English 0525 GMT 19 Mar 86

[Text] New Delhi, March 19 (AFP) — Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev is to visit India this year, Soviet Culture Minister P.N. Demichev has said, PRESS TRUST OF INDIA reported Wednesday.

It quoted Mr. Demichev as saying Tuesday that Mr. Gorbachev had accepted an invitation to make a visit this year.

Mr. Demichev, who led a Soviet delegation to the 13th congress of the pro-Moscow Communist Party of India (CPI) here, called on Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi Tuesday.

PTI said that he informed Mr. Gandhi of the planned trip, but added that no dates had yet been finalised.

Official comment on Mr. Demichev's reported statement was not immediately available.

'Concern' Over Sri Lanka-Pakistan 'Military Nexus'

*BK181605 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 18 Mar 86*

[Text] India is seriously concerned at the activities of foreign security and intelligence organizations in Sri Lanka and that country's growing military nexus with Pakistan. The External Affairs Ministry's annual report for 1985-86 says India has also expressed concern over reports suggesting that Sri Lanka is attempting a military solution to the ethnic crisis. The escalation of violence and large-scale killing of Tamil civilians has caused great concern in the country. Refugees from Sri Lanka now number more than 124,000, and they pose socioeconomic and other burdens for India.

Referring to Pakistan, the report points out that responsible ministers and leaders of that country have made unfortunate

statements on Kashmir and minorities in this country. The assurances given by Pakistan in respect of its assistance to Sikh extremists have also not been fulfilled. The government of India, however, continued its efforts to normalize relations with Pakistan in the spirit of the Simla agreement. The prime minister, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, and the Pakistan president, General Ziaul Haq, held four meetings during the year and there were also a number of other meetings at various levels. The meeting of India-Pakistan joint commission which was scheduled for this month has not yet been held because Pakistan did not agree to the dates proposed for the meeting and the first and the second subcommission which were to precede the joint commission meeting. [sentence as heard]

Referring to the military presence of the Indian Ocean, the report expresses the hope that littoral and hinterland countries will not align themselves with the great powers or offer them facilities of a military nature.

6 Pakistanis Killed in Encounters at Punjab Border

*BK181353 Delhi General Overseas Service in English
1330 GMT 18 Mar 86*

[Text] Six Pakistani nationals have been killed in encounters with Border Security Force personnel on the India-Pakistan border in Punjab in last 2 days. Four Pakistani nationals were killed today in two separate encounters, two of them were shot dead near (Godhar Dhariwal) in an exchange of fire, while two were killed near (Dharopali) in Amritsar sector.

50 Arrested in Pakistan for Anti-U.S. Demonstrations

*BK180309 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 18 Mar 86*

[Text] In Karachi, students marched through the streets yesterday in protest against the visit of the U.S. war ships led by the world's largest aircraft carrier *Enterprise*. Riot police broke up the demonstrations and arrested about 50 students. The authorities had to restrict the movement of about 5,000 American Marines in view of the demonstration.

In a statement in Lahore the Central Committee of the Pakistan People's Party criticized the visit of the U.S. Navy. The statement said the visit undermines Pakistan's independent foreign policy and its nonaligned status.

Opposition Leaders Warn Against Terrorism Debate

*BK181256 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1230 GMT 18 Mar 86*

[Text] Some of the opposition leaders have told the prime minister that this was not the appropriate time to have a discussion on terrorism in some parts of the country as announced by the Lok Sabha speaker. At their meeting with Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, they pointed out that feelings on the issue are running high and charges and countercharges are being made. A full debate in this atmosphere will not be beneficial. They wanted the proposed debate should not be held on Friday [21 March] but some time

later. Jakhar had earlier announced that the Lok Sabha would discuss the subject on Friday.

The speaker's announcement had come when a Congress-I member, Mr K. K. Tiwari, and some of his party colleagues expressed their strong resentment and concern over the killings in Punjab. Mr Jakhar shared their feelings and condemned those incidents. He said there is a big conspiracy behind terrorism in the country. This is a matter of concern for the entire nation and not only for a state government.

Menaka Gandhi Attacks Muslim Maintenance Bill

HK131304 Hong Kong AFP in English 1243 GMT 13 Mar 86

[Text] New Delhi, March 13 (AFP) — Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's rebel sister-in-law, Menaka, has made a scathing attack on the government over the introduction of a bill in Parliament which seeks to relieve Moslem husbands from paying a maintenance allowance to their divorced wives.

The controversial bill says that instead divorced Moslem women should get maintenance from their families or Moslem welfare boards.

The bill has provoked strong protest from liberal Moslems and opposition political parties, but has been supported by Moslem fundamentalist groups.

Mrs Gandhi's attack, in the form of letters sent to ruling Congress (I) Party deputies and published by the *STATESMAN* newspaper Thursday, is her first public comment in several months on the working of the government led by her brother-in-law.

"It is appalling that the government has seen fit to promote a bill that will make (Moslem) women second class citizens," she said.

"Most countries, that call themselves democratic, have over the years, introduced progressive legislation in all the laws relating to the family..."

"This is for the first time an ostensibly democratic system takes such a stern and retrograde step against an entire sex," she said.

"It is pity that few people in the ruling party have spoken up in the Parliament... I hope that this is not due to fear of expulsion..." she said.

"Moslem women today cannot speak for themselves. So you must take it upon yourself as a representative of part of India, to defend their rights... I urge upon you to put your conscience higher than your ambition in this issue," the letter said.

No comment was immediately available from the deputies, who number 413 in the house of 544 members.

A liberal Moslem minister in Mr Gandhi's cabinet has resigned over the bill, but a majority of the Congress (I) deputies have preferred not to criticise it openly.

The bill was introduced after a Supreme Court verdict ordering a Moslem husband to pay a maintenance allowance to his divorced wife.

The judgement triggered protests from fundamentalist Moslems last month and in the ensuing violence at least seven people were killed across India.

Mrs Gandhi's husband, Sanjay, son of the late Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, was killed in a stunt plane crash here in June 1980. Menaka Gandhi later rebelled and left the official residence of her mother-in-law.

She formed her own party, Rashtriya Sanjay Manch, and fought elections. Her party secured a few state assembly seats, but none on the national level.

Little has been heard from her since federal elections in December 1984.

MP Alleges Explosion at Atomic Research Center

HK150624 Hong Kong AFP in English 0556 GMT 15 Mar 86

[Text] New Delhi, March 15 (AFP) — Seven scientists were seriously injured and many others exposed to radiation in an explosion at India's Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) near the western city of Bombay, an opposition MP has alleged.

Janata Party MP V. Venkatesh told the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA news agency in Bangalore, southern India, on Friday that the blast had occurred two weeks ago.

Dr. Venkatesh raised the issue in the lower house of Parliament earlier on Friday.

But the speaker (presiding officer), refused to allow the MP to ask about the alleged incident, saying it was not the way to raise the matter.

"The people of the country want to know what was the cause of the blast," Dr Venkatesh said.

He urged the government to take steps to prevent radiation leakage.

There was no comment from either the government or the authorities at the centre.

Further Reportage on Violence on Punjab

Batala Curfew Extended

BK170317 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 17 Mar 86

[Text] In Punjab, the curfew in Batala town which was clamped last evening following incidents of arson, looting, and group clashes has been extended indefinitely. According to an official spokesman, the police resorted to firing when other measures to control and separate the unruly clashing mobs failed. The

spokesman said the incident claimed at least two lives and resulted in injuries to 13 others. More reinforcements of police and paramilitary forces have reached the town to assist the local administration in maintaining law and order. The state government has alerted local administrations in all the districts to keep a strict vigil over the situation and maintain law and order at all costs. They have been asked to take all possible preventive measures to ensure that no mischief monger takes the law into his own hands.

The Shiva Sena [Hindu organization] chief of Muktsar in Faridkot District, who was attacked by unidentified gunmen last Thursday, succumbed to his injuries at the hospital.

Batala 'Fully Under Control'

*BK170851 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 17 Mar 86*

[Text] In Punjab, the situation in the curfew-bound town of Batala is fully under control. An official spokesman said in Chandigarh today that additional reinforcements have been deployed in the town to ensure that no mischief makers break the peace in the town. The curfew was imposed in the town yesterday evening following some incidents of arson, looting, and clashes between two groups.

'Neighboring Country' Providing Arms

*BK181621 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 18 Mar 86*

[Text] The Punjab chief minister, Mr Surjit Singh Barnala, has reiterated that the elements trying to disturb peace and amity in the state will be dealt with firmly. He was replying to a special discussion on the law and order situation in the state legislative assembly in Chandigarh this afternoon. He said a committee of legislators from all political parties, which will visit various sensitive parts of the state for promotion of peace and amity, is being set up within the week.

Mr Barnala said the police have recently arrested about a 100 hard-core criminals responsible for various violent activities in the state. The chief minister alleged that a neighboring country is providing training and weapons to misguided youths from Punjab. He called upon the center to effectively seal the international borders to check infiltration.

Earlier, all the Congress-I legislators staged a walkout when the speaker did not allow the leader of the opposition, Mrs Gurbinder Kaur Brar, to intervene immediately when the chief minister alleged that some organizations were responsible for vitiating the atmosphere in the state.

Meanwhile, the situation in the curfew-bound towns of Jullundur and Batala continues to be tense but under control. No untoward incident was reported.

3,000 More Troops Sent

HK190518 Hong Kong AFP in English 0505 GMT 19 Mar 86

[Text] New Delhi, Mar 19 (AFP) — India's federal Government is rushing 3,000 paramilitary troops to Punjab state to contain violence there, the Indian *EXPRESS* newspaper said Wednesday.

The report came amid a spurt in Sikh militant-related killings and attacks in the strategic northern state, observers said.

The decision to send in the 3,000 federal forces was taken in response to a request from the Sikh moderate-led Punjab government and would boost the total federal paramilitary force in the state to 18,600, the paper said.

No official comment was immediately available on the report, from Punjab state's capital, Chandigarh.

At least 10 people have been killed in Sikh autonomy-related violence in Punjab this week, earlier reports reaching here said.

A senior police official escaped death in the Sikh holy city of Amritsar Tuesday when bullets fired at him by suspected Sikh separatists missed their target. PRESS TRUST OF INDIA news agency said.

A section of India's 16 million Sikhs are waging a violent campaign for a separate homeland in the Punjab.

Assembly Discusses Situation

*BK180350 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 18 Mar 86*

[Text] In Punjab, a special sitting of the assembly has been convened this afternoon to discuss the law and order situation in the state.

Meanwhile, the situation in the two curfew bound towns of Jullundur and Batala continues to be tense, but under control. An official spokesman said in Chandigarh this morning that the reinforced law enforcing machinery has been deployed in the two towns. The local authorities in other parts of the state are maintaining a strict vigil over the situation.

An attempt was made to set on fire two shops in Nakodar town of Jullundur district last night. However, the alert watchmen immediately swung into action and extinguished the fire.

Ziaul Haq Discusses UN 242, Gulf War, Opposition

GF131552 Manama AKHBAR AL-KHALIJ in Arabic
13 Mar 86 pp 3, 8

[Interview with President General Mohammad Ziaul Haq by AKHBAR AL-KHALIJ chief editor Ahmad Salman Kamal in Islamabad — date not given]

[Text] Question: Your Excellency, how do you evaluate the situation in Pakistan and relations with the opposition parties now that martial law, which continued for more than 8 years, has been lifted?

Ziaul Haq: I personally feel very satisfied over the situation in Pakistan because political activities have resumed in the country after a long time. I will tell you truthfully, although the government was military for 8½ years and although I was the head of this military government, we continued our sincere efforts to prepare the country for democratic changes, then we began to practice the democratic experiment.

For the first time in 18 years, local elections are being held in the country, which resulted in the establishment of provincial assemblies, regional committees, and legislative councils for the provinces. The first elections were held in this framework in 1979, to be followed by the second elections in 1983. It should be acknowledged here that this accomplishment was achieved under a military government — something not achieved during the former regime, which used to advocate democracy and completely failed to prepare the Pakistani people and the country for the democratic process.

The success of our democratic experiment, which we consolidated after assuming power, is manifested in the fact that the Pakistani people now have their representatives, who are elected from all local institutions in the Senate and the National Assembly. The Senate and the National Assembly make up the parliament, which we call the Consultative Assembly. Our experiment is also rich because the elections conducted — whether provincial or central — were not held on a party basis built on fanaticism and grouping. Rather, they were held with the massive participation of the people so that they would have representatives who would talk on their behalf in all government institutions throughout the country. My personal conviction is that the elections experiment we practiced is in line with the spirit of Islam, particularly since we did not allow it to take place on party basis.

We proceeded in this way because we felt sure that parties would need a long time to repair the shortcomings in their organs and ranks. The best proof for the success of the experiment of the general elections held in 23 March 1985 is that the political government is running the country while the military government is in the background. This made me fully satisfied and glad and has convinced me that we are moving in right direction. Another example is that the government has become democratic and has practiced its authority in a free and democratic manner and makes its decisions in accordance with national interests. We have been able to accomplish that to which we aspired. Only a little is left to do. Time will achieve this.

There is a question concerning the opposition's rights. We clearly say that we do not oppose the official sense of the word, because, according to the democratic political experiment the Pakistani people chose, the opposition should work from inside the parliament. The majority party now is the Muslim League, the ruling party. As for the opposition working from outside the parliament, it is neither official nor legal and the Pakistani people do not recognize it. It should be noted that some parties, particularly following the lifting of martial law, have come to believe that they have to play a role outside the government. There is a 30- or 35-member group inside the National Assembly, called the Independent Parliamentary Group, which has not formed a party. This is the only opposition we recognize. I believe that this is the legal opposition.

I hope that you will have the opportunity to closely view the activities of the National Assembly to judge the democratic experiment and practice. As for the opposition working outside of the country, the people do not know anything about it and they do not pay any attention to it. Because of its ignorance of what is going on in the country, it believes that something wrong is going on. The opposition also believes that military rule is still in force and Ziaul Haq alone is directing things. There are some people who are influenced by the Indian experiment, although the circumstances in our country differ from those of India. These people want to transfer the Indian experiment to our country without understanding the dimensions of their thinking.

Let us go back to parties and their strength. It is clear that parties are weak in their structure because this structure did not have a democratic base. Therefore they are not democratic parties. They also lack clear programs. That is why our call was clear for elections to be conducted on a nonparty basis. Once the people's elected representatives assume their duties in the Consultative Assembly, they become empowered to make all decisions. From this premises, I say to our political parties: If you are keen for the democratic experiment, you should participate in elections. However, if you fail to meet this invitation, you will necessarily find yourselves outside of political action and the democratic experiment the people chose.

As for elections for the National Assembly, participation in it was 63 percent — a rate exceeding that in the United States and the British elections which brought Margaret Thatcher to power. While participation in the National Assembly elections was 63 percent, participation in provincial elections was 67 percent. Despite these brilliant successes, the opposition parties which opted not to participate have been crying from abroad for the past 5 years. They claim that these elections are illegal and held on a nonparty basis. However, once again we say that they alone are to blame because they did not participate in these elections. We also say that if these parties are eager to develop the democratic process, they should be aware of what is going on inside — something they cannot do if they remain outside and if they do not participate in elections. Therefore, members of these parties should reorganize their parties and prepare themselves for the 1990 elections.

Question: Do you expect the parties to take part in the upcoming elections?

Ziaul Haq: We expect all of the major parties to take part. According to the Constitution and the laws of the country, they function within the framework of this process. The new experience forces the parties to abide by the law pertaining to the registration of parties in order to explain their policies and confirm their democracy — after undertaking internal elections and organizing their ranks democratically. Once the parties register themselves, they will be allowed to practice their political activity and consequently to take part in elections.

Question: How do you classify the various political parties in Pakistan from an ideological point of view? How many will be classified?

Ziaul Haq: Except for a few, all of the parties are either rightists or central rightists. They are loyal to Pakistan and have Islamic affiliation. There is only one party which calls for secularism — the Pakistani People's Party. This party calls for an Islamic government, but does not adhere to Islamic law. The party adopts a socialist platform. The claims made by this party are mere slogans. At any rate, they demand the implementation of secularism. There are other parties which tend to be leftist, such as the banned Pakistani Communist Party and other small parties. These parties are opposed to the adoption of Islam as a means of rule. They call for secularism, as well. I believe that the next parliament will be able to enact the necessary legislation to curb this huge number of parties by canceling the small and ineffective parties.

Question: From time to time the Western press reports on how unstable the situations are in some Pakistani regions, such as Baluchistan. What is Your Excellency's reaction to these news reports?

Ziaul Haq: Such reports are false. The Baluchistan issue surfaced 10 or 12 years ago when the previous regime used military force to suppress their upheaval. Since we assumed power, we have not used military force against them. With the help of our brothers in Islamic countries, we have succeeded in developing this region and ameliorating their living conditions. This blocked the way of communist and socialist movements in Baluchistan, which is currently enjoying complete quiet. It is well known that the area of Baluchistan is half the area of the country — despite a population of 5 million or slightly more. This area is currently one of the most stable regions. Its people are among the most sincere and dedicated and they reinforce our military forces with the best of elements.

Question: The recent escalation in the Gulf war may lead to the danger of expanding the range of the war and subjecting the region to extreme dangers. Owing to Pakistan's good relationship with the two warring sides, is there any intention to launch a Pakistani initiative to end the fighting?

Ziaul Haq: Pakistan has continuously made endeavors in this direction through my own personal initiative and through the membership in the Islamic committee, which stems from the Islamic Conference. We have done our utmost to convince Iran to turn to peaceful solutions, yet it has adopted an intransigent position and has demonstrated a desire to continue the war. This position is different from the position of Iraq, which has demon-

strated flexibility and a readiness to reach a peaceful solution. I believe that the revolutionary zeal of Iran has not subsided to the point of changing its position. Though I do not want to interfere in Iran's internal affairs, it is evident that the internal divisions and the lack of a single side capable of making a decision constitutes an obstacle to turning to peace. At present in Iran there are many sides that make decisions. Over the past 2 weeks, Pakistan has tried to launch new initiatives, but has found no positive response to its efforts. All of us know that the situation has become very dangerous following the continuous escalation of the war between Iraq and Iran. I stress that the danger lies in the fact that if Iran succeeds in what it is trying to accomplish, the area will witness an unprecedented state of instability. The process of destabilizing Iraq would destabilize the situation in the region. I believe that neither of the two sides will be victorious in this war and that both sides will suffer complete devastation. It is certain that this will be reflected in the Gulf region and the Islamic world. We hope that the two warring sides will hammer out an agreement to solve the existing issue. From this premise, I believe that I have no other initiative to launch. I hope that Iran will be more flexible and objective.

Question: Do you believe that in the absence of Khomeyni the younger generations of the Iranian leadership will stop the war?

Ziaul Haq: I do not believe that the matter will be much different whether Khomeyni exists or is absent. In the absence of Khomeyni, every center of power will adopt its private initiative.

Question: Is the continuation of the war, up to now, an ideological issue or a fait accompli?

Ziaul Haq: This matter pertains to the Iranian psychology. Iran's current psychology is the psychology of continuing the revolution process. At unusual times men behave in an unusual manner. That is why the country is experiencing an unusual situation. Within the context of what I say, Iran considers this war a jihad. I actually asked them about it. They answered that it is a jihad. I asked them how they can call a war against an Islamic country a jihad. It is an abnormal mental condition. The issue of Iraq and the issue of President Saddam Husayn is my main preoccupation. They are now concentrating on the issue of toppling Iraqi President Saddam Husayn. They are determined to do this even if it snowballs into the loss of Iran — while preserving the revolution. They are very extremist on this issue.

Question: Why does the ICO, which was established to run the affairs of the Islamic world, not convene an extraordinary summit to discuss the Gulf war — since this war constitutes the most serious problem facing the Islamic world — to adopt a resolution to terminate the fighting, impose sanctions on the side that does not adhere to the resolution, and then form an arbitration body to solve the various aspects of dispute between the two countries?

Ziaul Haq: I believe that any initiative launched in this regard is good. There is nothing worse than what is taking place now. If the initiative succeeds, it will give new momentum. If it fails, the situation will be no worse than it is now. It is most important that any initiative be accepted by the two sides. At the Casablanca summit conference, for instance, we talked much about the war.

We adopted a number of resolutions but achieved nothing. During the convocation of the Al-Ta'if summit attended by President Saddam Husayn, he expressed readiness to accept any resolutions adopted by the conference. However, Iran did not attend the summit. We tried to persuade Iran to attend a conference held in Dhaka last year. For the first time Iran accepted and attended this Islamic conference, but it did not show any flexibility. Iran stated that this is not a war dominated by fanaticism. It is a war in which victory has to be attained.

Question: Why does the ICO not adopt sanctions against the side that does not terminate the war?

Ziaul Haq: Iran has stated that it is ready to be flexible if we attain four conditions. First, the ICO has to identify the side which started the war. If it transpires that it is Iraq, sanctions are to be imposed on Iraq to pay all reparations on losses. The last time we asked Iran for its estimates of the losses sustained in the war, they quoted the amount \$250 billion.

Question: We have learned that some Arab countries have expressed a readiness to contribute to the reparations to be paid to Iran. Do you believe that Iran will accept reparations paid by Arab countries?

Ziaul Haq: In the beginning Iran said that Iraq has to shoulder the responsibility of paying the reparations without the participation of the Arab world. It also said that it is not as much interested in the payment of reparations as in denouncing the aggressor provided that settlement on reparations is reached after the denunciation and provided that the name of the man who ordered the launching of the hostile aggression is announced. The demand also included deposing President Saddam Husayn from power. The Iraqi people would then decide who their president will be. I believe that this has nothing to do with flexibility.

Question: To resist any great power, the rifle is the logic of the age. Do you believe that the East and the West will allow any geographical changes which might occur due to the Iraq-Iran war, or is it a limited war through which Iran is trying to occupy parts of Iraq with the approval of the superpowers?

Ziaul Haq: According to my own information, Iran states that it does not seek to occupy Basra. In the beginning, they used to say: We must liberate our territories. Now they say: We are invading Iraq, not to occupy it, but to topple Saddam Husayn and when we achieve this goal we will withdraw immediately. I asked them to explain this stand, because it is the Iraqi people who should decide their own system. The Iranians' answer is to continue fighting until the end. It seems that according to this concept it is difficult to convince those who adhere to their principles to take into consideration the huge population of Iran, 45 million, against 14 million Iraqis, in addition to the vast financial capabilities and great number of weapons left by the shah's regime. According to my own estimation and analysis of the situation, the capabilities of both parts have diminished greatly due to this war. In addition, the superpowers will not allow any changes in the region. However they are not directly involved with either of the two parties, despite the fact that some

of the weapons and spare parts are provided by the superpowers directly or through third countries.

Question: A number of Arab countries blame the non-Arab Islamic countries for not actively participating in confronting the danger of Zionism and the Israeli occupation of Jerusalem and its threats to destroy its holy shrines. This issue must concern the entire Islamic world and not just the Arab world.

Ziaul Haq: Since its independence, led by Mohammad Ali Jinnah, Pakistan has supported the Palestinian issue. It also considers that the Palestinian cause is not only the concern of the Palestinians but a cause which the entire Islamic world should adopt. Never in the history of humanity has there been such a tragic issue as the Palestinian issue. However the Palestinians lack unity despite our expressions of support for Yasir 'Arafat. The PLO is the only recognizable organization among all of the other factions. The Islamic world must support it in a bid to solve the Palestinian cause according to the UN resolutions.

In this regard I have my own opinion that during this stage and after all of these developments, it is unrealistic to deny the existence of Israel. I say that UN Resolution 242 must be accepted along with the recognition of the Palestinian rights for self-determination and the establishment of a state for them. The Palestinians should agree to the plan offered by Saudi King Fahd and Jordanian King Husayn. The Jordanians and the Palestinians should come together. They should find a piece of land in the West Bank and Gaza Strip which should be the homeland of the Palestinians. Together they should live in peace. Otherwise this problem cannot be solved. It is impossible for this war to continue forever, because Israel will be supplied by the United States whether we like it or not. Therefore Israel is supplied by a superpower and as long as there is no unity between the Palestinians and the Muslims, Israel will remain victorious. I am looking forward to the day when I will be able to go to Jerusalem and pray on Friday. It is not enough to sit down and dream. We must take positive steps to find a foothold for the Palestinians. They must enjoy Jordanian support. In the meantime they should recognize Israel and think of their future policy.

Question: Your Excellency, you have mentioned that the Palestinians should recognize UN Resolution 242. In fact this resolution is useless to the Palestinians as it does not recognize their homeland.

Ziaul Haq: It is important to link Resolution 242 with the project of King Fahd formulated in 1983, which includes eight points, and also the formula accepted by King Husayn and Yasir 'Arafat. However UN Resolution 242 does mean nothing concerning a sovereign state. However, together with the project of King Fahd, Israel must therefore recognize the PLO and must conduct dialogue with it as the sole representative of the Palestinian people. This is the basis for the solution in the future.

Question: Are you generally satisfied that current cooperation among the Islamic countries is genuine? Is it cooperation?

Ziaul Haq: There was no genuine cooperation before. However, things are now better than before. The ICO is a kind of cooperation between Islamic countries, although it has not achieved

much, its existence is better recognized than before. Today the ICO is recognized by the United Nations, the Nonaligned Movement, and every international organization. There is also the Arab League, which includes all of the Arab Muslim countries. Apart from that, there are two regional organizations of great potential and importance. The first includes Iran, Turkey, and Pakistan. The second is the Southeast Asian Organization, which includes seven Islamic countries. Through these regional organizations, the world can hear the voice of Islam. Moreover the GCC conducts comprehensive strategic planning to polarize all of the Islamic countries in the region. We hope that the activities and the cooperation of these organizations will serve the Islamic causes.

Question: It has been announced in New Delhi that Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi has canceled his proposed visit to Pakistan because of its support for the Sikh extremists. Does this mean there is a crisis between India and Pakistan? If so, what are the dimensions of the crisis?

Ziaul Haq: The cancellation of the visit has not been announced officially. Over the past 5 years Pakistan has tried to achieve peace with India. We have done much in this regard. I have met Rajiv Gandhi six times, most recently on 17 December 1985, and there was tangible progress. However, there is no official statement on the cancellation of the visit. We feel that Pakistan will resume efforts to normalize relations with India. I have met Rajiv so many times. I also met him in Muscat where our talks were most positive.

Question: Your Excellency, there is a lot of talk about the Islamic nuclear bomb Pakistan intends to produce. What are the facts about this issue?

Ziaul Haq: Pakistan has reached a high level of nuclear technology for peaceful uses. We have announced that our research in the nuclear field is to use its energy and to develop the technology for peaceful means. We have announced that we have managed to enrich uranium, a very advanced technological operation. There are only five countries which have so far accomplished it. Pakistan is only striving to have its own reactor so as not to depend on others. It is ironic that the Soviet bomb is not called the communist bomb, and the U.S. bomb is not called the Christian bomb. India has nuclear reactors but no one calls it the Hindu bomb, or Israel's the Jewish bomb. Why must they call Pakistan's bomb, supposing we have it, an Islamic bomb? You can see the mentality. They are fearful that if an Islamic country such as Pakistan acquires this technology they will spread it. In fact if the Islamic world possessed this technology, it means that 900 million Muslims possess advanced technology. Hence comes the aggressive campaign against Pakistan and the aggressive talk about the Pakistani nuclear bomb. It is our right to obtain the technology. And when we acquire this technology, the entire Islamic world will possess it with us.

Question: What is the view of Your Excellency concerning the possibility of reaching a settlement of the Afghan issue. Are there any contacts between Pakistan and the USSR or the Afghan Government in this regard?

Ziaul Haq: There is no chance that Pakistan could recognize the ruling regime in Kabul because the Soviet occupation is a source of worry to all of the countries in the region. The current number of the Soviet forces is about 150,000. The Soviet trend is to expand their influence to the Indian Ocean through Pakistan after circling Iran. This is the Soviet strategy. Now they have closed the doors in front of the PRC while they threaten Pakistan from the west and prepare to expand their influence to the Indian Ocean, the entrance to the Gulf and to the oil-rich countries.

Indian Envoy Hands Gandhi Message to Ziaul Haq

*BK181535 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
1500 GMT 18 Mar 86*

[Text] Indian Ambassador to Pakistan S.K. Singh called on President Mohammad Ziaul Haq in Rawalpindi this afternoon and handed him a message from the Indian prime minister. It is in reply to the president's message to Gandhi on 1 March regarding the development of bilateral relations.

The president reiterated that Pakistan is determined to establish good-neighborly and cooperative relations with India on the basis of recognized principles of relations among states. He stated this in his reply to the Indian prime minister's message, sent to him while Gandhi was overflying Pakistani territory. The president also expressed good wishes for the progress and prosperity of the Indian people.

The Indian prime minister said in his message that India is fully committed to the goal of promoting cordial bilateral relations under the Simla agreement.

Further on UN Envoy's Visit to Islamabad, Kabul

Talks With Yaqub Khan

*BK131606 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
1500 GMT 13 Mar 86*

[Text] The UN secretary general's personal representative on Afghanistan, Diego Cordovez, held two rounds of formal talks with the foreign minister, Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, in Islamabad today. It is understood that he apprised the foreign minister of his talks with the officials of the Karmal administration.

Mr Cordovez went to Kabul on Monday [10 March] after holding four rounds of talks in Islamabad.

Interviewed on Afghan Talks

*BK140416 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
0200 GMT 14 Mar 86*

[Text] The personal representative of the UN secretary general, Mr Cordovez, has said that his current visit to the region has further strengthened his feelings that it is essential to resolve the problem caused by the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan. He said the situation arising out of the problem has caused an immense increase in human suffering. The UN representative said in an interview with the ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKI-

STAN that no one realizes the serious proportions and new direction that this problem has assumed, making it difficult to solve. With the passage of time, this issue has become more difficult.

He said that the differences between the sides are not such that they cannot be resolved. He said if the Geneva talks are resumed on a mutually satisfactory basis, we will be able to negotiate the fourth instrument on a settlement of the Afghanistan problem. The Kabul regime is demanding direct talks with Pakistan on the fourth instrument. This instrument relates to serializing it with the other three instruments, which have been concluded at six rounds of indirect talks under the supervision of the United Nations. [Sentence as heard] Pakistan is opposed to any change in the format of the Geneva talks.

Mr Cordovez held talks with Pakistan's foreign minister yesterday on his return to Islamabad from Kabul. He is likely to return to Kabul tonight or tomorrow morning and to be back to Islamabad Sunday [16 March] to resume talks with Pakistani officials.

Mr Cordovez said that the pace of the current negotiations is slow in comparison to expectations. However, the Pakistani Government has demonstrated very good, commendable cooperation. He said Pakistan has adopted a positive attitude toward a negotiated settlement of this issue.

Additional Talks With Yaqub Khan

*BK171610 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
1500 GMT 17 Mar 86*

[Text] The UN secretary general's personal representative on Afghanistan, Diego Cordovez, held another round of talks with Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan in Islamabad this afternoon.

Earlier, on his return to Islamabad from Kabul, he told newsmen that they are continuing the process of negotiations to find a peaceful settlement of the Afghanistan problem, but they cannot publicize the (?position). He refused to comment on his talks with the Kabul administration's Foreign Minister Shah Mohammad Dost.

Meets Ziaul Haq

*BK180708 Karachi Domestic Service in English
1700 GMT 17 Mar 86*

[Text] The UN secretary general's personal representative on Afghanistan, Mr Diego Cordovez, had a meeting with President

Mohammad Ziaul Haq in Rawalpindi this evening. Mr Cordovez discussed the Afghanistan problem with the president and informed him about the efforts (?taken by him for a settlement of this) problem. The foreign minister, Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, was also present on the occasion.

Leaves for New York

*BK180856 Karachi Overseas Service in Urdu
0800 GMT 18 Mar 86*

[Text] The UN secretary general's personal representative on Afghanistan, Diego Cordovez, expressed the hope that he will soon be successful in continuing the process of the Geneva talks and said that there is no doubt that representatives of both Pakistan and Kabul are ready to resume the talks. He was speaking to newsmen at the Islamabad airport before his departure to New York.

He said that, in the light of his talks in Kabul and Islamabad, representatives from both the countries will be able to overcome the problems confronted in the talks. He described his talks as elaborate, categorical, and very tough on several occasions; however, he described them overall as constructive.

He said that in the event of a positive response (?the dialogue, on preparing the fourth instrument, will continue. Mr Cordovez added that he had obtained in Kabul a draft for the fourth instrument pertaining to the timetable for Soviet withdrawal. He said he has exchanged views with Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan on the text of this instrument.

Afghan Jets Reportedly Bomb Border Post, Kill 5

NC181735 Paris AFP in English 1727 GMT 18 Mar 86

[Text] Islamabad, March 18 (AFP) — Afghan warplanes Tuesday bombed a Pakistani border post in the North-West Frontier Province, killing five paramilitary troopers and wounding another 14, informed sources said in Peshawar.

The sources in the border city said four Afghan fighter planes violated Pakistani airspace in the Kurram area, bordering Afghanistan's Paktia Province, and dropped several bombs on the Karshia border post manned by Pakistani militia.

Officials had no immediate comment.

Demonstration Held To Protest U.S. Fleet in Karachi

Montazari Addresses Crowd

LD182323 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
2030 GMT 18 Mar 86

[Text] According to the Central News Unit, this afternoon, a large group of religious students, ulema, and Indian, Pakistani, and Bangladeshi clergymen residing in Qom seminary, side by side with the Hezbollahi and the ever-present people of Qom, staged a march from the Feyziyeh school to protest the presence of the U.S. fleet on Pakistan's shores. The march was held in harmony with the protest of the people of Pakistan against the arrival of the U.S. fleet in Pakistani waters. The marchers carried pictures of the imam of the nation, Grand Ayatollah Montazeri, and some banners condemning the presence of the U.S. fleet in Pakistan's waters, imperialist conspiracies, and interference in the affairs of the Middle Eastern countries.

By chanting such slogans as: "Death to the United States," "Death to Israel," and "Pakistan Is the Graveyard of the Americans," the marchers demonstrated their anger and revulsion at such deeds by world-devouring imperialism and its lackeys. Afterwards, the marchers gathered in Martyrs Square and listened to a speech by one of the Pakistani clergymen and approved a resolution.

Following the march, the participants met with Grand Ayatollah Montazeri. In the course of this meeting, Grand Ayatollah Montazeri praised the revolutionary move of the Muslim people of Pakistan and the participants at this march. He called upon them to remove the enemies of Islam and Muslims by receiving inspiration from the Islamic revolution of Iran led by the imam of the nation.

U.S. Flag Burned

LD190648 Tehran IRNA in English 0643 GMT 19 Mar 86

[Text] Qom, March 19, IRNA — A group of Pakistani theologians studying at Qom Theological Center in a protest march here Tuesday condemned the arrival of the U.S. naval fleet in Karachi port and U.S. aggressive policies. The demonstrators marched through the streets of the holy city of Qom and burned the U.S. flag, demanded departure of the fleet. They later gathered at the residence of Ayatollah Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri.

Addressing the Pakistani theologians, the Ayatollah said that they bore a great responsibility towards the Pakistani nation and should fulfill their Islamic duties.

"It is a religious duty of the theologians," he told the visitors, "not to sit silent when the Muslims and the Islamic community face a problem. They should mobilise all their efforts to unmask the enemies of Islam."

He also deplored attitude of the so-called theologians who have put themselves at the disposal of the corrupt rulers of certain Islamic countries. By doing so these theologians are siding with traitors and tyrants and are justifying their injustice.

However, he added, they should know that such justifications will have severe consequences for them.

Further in his speech, Ayatollah Montazeri said that the Islamic revolution of Iran has awakened Muslim nations and, therefore, the lackey governments should know that they are doomed.

Oil Minister Meets Counterparts at OPEC Session

With Nigeria, Indonesia

GF180826 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
0430 GMT 18 Mar 86

[Text] We draw your attention to a report on the meeting of the oil minister of our country with the Nigerian and Indonesian oil ministers during the course of the OPEC oil minister's session in Geneva.

[Begin recording] On Monday, the oil minister of our country met with Doctor Subroto, the Indonesian mining and energy minister. They exchanged views on the problems of the oil market and directions OPEC must take. While describing the conditions imposed on OPEC, the oil minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran said: If we do not reach a desirable result during this session, the crisis which will arise from economic problems will be uncontrollable. He added: My overall understanding is that it is possible to stabilize prices by controlling production. Moreover, over the next few months the control of production will enable us to increase prices.

Dr Subroto, the Indonesian mine and energy minister, emphasized that all OPEC members have a tendency toward increasing prices and noted the production level of non-OPEC oil-producing countries. He said: We have a lot of power as long as we know how to use it. No other power is able to maintain OPEC's shares in the market.

These discussions continued for an hour and the parties reached mutual points which would be very useful in bringing closer the views of the members.

On Monday the oil minister of our country also met and exchanged views with Mr Lukman, the new Nigerian oil minister. The oil minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran began by describing the problems and conditions with which OPEC is faced and emphasized further discussions among the members. He called the decrease in oil prices a plot against OPEC and said: Today we are faced with the problem of how much we should produce to help prices. Members must try not to turn back official prices.

While enumerating the problems Nigeria faces due to the decline in oil prices, Mr Lukman, the Nigerian oil minister said: I agree with your views. The oil volume must be brought down so that oil prices do not decrease. During the course of these discussions, the parties understood each other's mutual problems and reached agreements in principle. It was agreed that they would emphasize these positions during the normal session of the conference. [end recording]

[Signed] Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran — Geneva

With Venezuela, Libya, Algeria
GF190559 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
 0330 GMT 19 Mar 86

[Text] According to a Central News Unit report from Geneva, during the course of a meeting between the oil minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the oil minister of Venezuela, they held discussions and exchanged views on the current problems of the oil market and the problems with which the current OPEC session is faced. During these discussions, which lasted for an hour, methods to decrease OPEC production in such a way that would improve the current situation and again increase prices were discussed. They emphasized that under the present conditions prices are artificial and they believed that by adopting the correct methods and coordination, OPEC members would be able to bring about realistic prices.

Yesterday afternoon the tripartite commission of the oil ministers of Iran, Libya, and Algeria once again conducted a session. Discussions were held and views were exchanged on adopting a joint method against the deviation trend among OPEC members. It must be mentioned that this wing believes in a decrease in production and an increase in prices — the logical campaign against the Western plots against OPEC. Recently Nigeria also expressed its support for this wing by announcing its position.

According to the same report the oil minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran also met with Dr Mani ibn Sa'id al-'Utaybah the oil minister of UAE. During the course of the meeting the need for coordination and commitment to shares as appointed by OPEC was emphasized.

Majlis Deputies Send Message to Khomeyni on War
LD13024 Tehran IRNA in English 1545 GMT 13 Mar 86

[Text] Tehran, March 13, IRNA — Majlis (parliament) deputies sent a letter to Imam Khomeyni Thursday announcing their preparedness to attend the Iraq-imposed war fronts. The Majlis deputies also stressed that Iran's offensives against the enemy should continue until the Islamic Republic's just demands are fulfilled and security returned to the region.

International Conference on War Reconstruction Held

Architects Meet
LD151411 Tehran IRNA in English 1335 GMT 15 Mar 86

[Text] Tehran, March 15, IRNA — Tehran's international conference on reconstruction of war-damaged areas continued its work Saturday after a three-day visit by its participants to several war-hit cities in Iran.

At the meeting, architects from France, Denmark, the United States, Italy, and Turkey propounded their views on reconstruction of the war-stricken areas.

Among plans brought up at the meeting were systematic methods of reconstruction, designing methods, reconstruction experience in Algeria, and related cultural issues.

Since the outbreak of the Iraqi-imposed war in September (?1980) Iraqi forces have totally destroyed several Iranian cities including Khorramshahr in Khuzestan Province.

Conference Ends

LD161358 Tehran IRNA in English 1335 GMT 16 Mar 86

[Text] Tehran, March 16, IRNA — The international conference on the reconstruction of war damaged areas ended its ten day meeting in Tehran Sunday after calling for due attention to traditional structural forms in the rebuilding of the cities.

In their last meeting, the specialist committees on planning, management, methods of construction and infrastructure reported their findings to the conference.

The participants who include architects from 26 countries from Asia, Europe and the American Continent were invited to the Islamic Republic to study the reconstruction work. There are two U.N. officials among them.

The conference members spent three days in the war zone to get first hand knowledge of the problems facing the scheme.

Before breaking up Sunday the conference issued a statement calling on the government to pay due attention to the participation of the public in the reconstruction effort.

The statement also said that due attention should be paid to the traditional cultural forms in the rebuilding of the housing complexes and cities.

Earlier the architects had expressed concern over Iraqi air raids on historic sites in Iran and they made the concern official by putting it in the final declaration.

Khamene'i Meets Experts

LD162141 Tehran IRNA in English 1746 GMT 16 Mar 86

[Text] Tehran, March 16, IRNA — President 'Ali Khamene'i said here Sunday that the larger part of the reconstruction operations of war-devastated areas has been undertaken by volunteers and that the people have already reconstructed many towns and cities such as the town of Huzgan in Khuzestan Province. He said the main support for the war effort, too, have been popular and volunteer forces.

In a meeting with foreign and domestic experts who had participated in the just concluded Tehran international conference on reconstruction of war-damaged areas, the president said that Iranian people themselves will provide the manpower and financial resources for reconstructing the war-stricken areas.

President Khamene'i said that once the Iraqi-imposed war ends in a victory for Iran, then reconstruction work will have the first priority among other tasks to be tackled, which he said would be recorded as another Iranian historic achievement. He said notwithstanding the imposition of the war on Iranian people, "we believe both defence and reconstruction will be the greatest experiences of our nation"...

The president noted that although the war was bitter and bloody however bombardment of cities, attacks on passenger planes and merchant as well as oil ships, and the use of chemical weapons by the Iraqi regime were exceptional and far more horrifying events in the history of wars, the president said. [Sentence as received]

The head of the Supreme Defence Council furthermore said that Iraqi bombardments of schools at a time when students were studying and other despicable crimes committed by the Baghdad government in the course of the war should certainly have raised the world consciousness.

The president said such negligence and silence by international organizations vis-a-vis Iraqi crimes, have caused Iranian nation to lose its trust in them.

IRGC, SAIRI Invite Iraqi Mujahidin To Join Fajr Force

*LD181835 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1630 GMT 18 Mar 86*

[Text] The Central Staff Command of the Islamic Revolution Guards corps [IRGC] and the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq [SAIRI] in a joint statement proclaimed:

In order to establish an Iraqi combatant presence in the liberated areas, a Fajr military force made up of Iraqi brother mujahidin, will be dispatched from Tehran University to the warfronts on Friday 1st Farvardin 1365 [21 March 1986], after holding the auspicious Friday prayers. Therefore, all Iraqi volunteer forces are hereby invited to present themselves in person to Iraqi mobilization offices throughout the country at the latest by Thursday 29th Esfand [20 March 1986].

Kurdish Peshergas Destroy Iraqi Personnel Carrier

LD181938 Tehran IRNA in English 1510 GMT 18 Mar 86

[Text] Tehran, March 18, IRNA — Iraqi Kurdish peshmergas have blasted a mine in a road leading to Lavan military base in northern Sayyid Khan destroying a military personnel carrier and killing or wounding its crew.

According to reports reaching here, the peshmergas had earlier planted several mines in the same road killing at least five Iraqi soldiers.

The reports said five Ba'thist soldiers joined the Kurdish fighters in Al-Sulaymaniyah together with their weapons last week.

Iraq Reportedly Forces Foreign Workers Into War

*LD181825 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1630 GMT 18 Mar 86*

[Text] Following the recent victories scored by Islam's heroes during the "Val-Fajr-8" and 9 operations and the immense losses suffered by the Saddamist forces, the Baghdad regime has forced workers residing in Iraq to participate in the fronts of the imposed war. According to a report by the publication *RAH-E KAR-BALA'* the Saddam regime's compulsory military service law has forced Yemeni, Sudanese, Egyptian, and other workers residing in that country to join the so-called Ba'thist People's Army. The publication wrote: War participation constitutes one of the residence conditions for non-Iraqi Arab workers residing in Iraq.

Senior Military Commanders Praise Armed Forces

LD131921 Tehran IRNA in English 1824 GMT 13 Mar 86

[Text] Tehran, March 13, IRNA — Senior military commanders Thursday hailed Iran's Islamic forces for inflicting heavy blows on the Iraqi Army and called for resistance against the superpowers.

Air Force Commander Colonel Hushang Sediq praised the heroic pilots of the Air Force for the heavy blows they have inflicted on the enemy in Val-Fajr-8 offensive (in Al-Faw region of Iraq). He said the world could hardly believe that the Islamic Republic Air Force was capable of bombarding enemy positions so heavily in Val-Fajr-8 operational region.

Speaking in a seminar on self-sufficiency in Air Force, Sediq said Iran today was relying on (itself) and that it should achieve advanced technology inside the country.

In another development, commander of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC) Mohsen Reza'i said Thursday that the Islamic Republic plays a significant role in the world and therefore it should counter the superpowers and help the world's oppressed.

Speaking in the third day of a nationwide seminar attended by IRGC's reserve units commanders, Reza'i also said that the Iran nation must take the leadership of the Islamic world and not [word indistinct] before the superpowers.

Meanwhile vice chancellors for military affairs of Iran's universities met here Thursday and discussed issues on research activities as well as dispatch of expert forces to the Iraqi imposed war fronts.

In the gathering, deputy minister of culture and high education for war affairs said that the universities are allowed to train the necessary skills for the war. He added that they also can study courses relevant to war issues.

War Information HQ Threatens Iraqi Industrial Targets*LD181638 Tehran IRNA in English 1615 GMT 18 Mar 86*

[Text] Tehran, March 18, IRNA — The War Information Headquarters of the Islamic Republic of Iran said in a communique here Tuesday that the Iranian forces would heavily pound industrial targets in Iraq if the Baghdad regime should continue its attacks upon non-military targets in Iran.

The communique said that the Iraqi regime has repeatedly bombarded Arab populated villages near the city of Ahvaz in Khuzestan Province of Iran describing its ruining of the houses of harmless civilians in Iran as "heroic operations."

The Baghdad regime has recently escalated its bombardments of non-military targets in Iran in an effort to make good on its steady set-backs in the battlefronts.

Denies Bombing Non-Military Areas*LD190618 Tehran IRNA in English 0610 GMT 19 Mar 86*

[Text] Tehran, March 19, IRNA — A spokesman for the War Information Headquarters (WIH) here Wednesday categorically denied claim of the Iraqi regime alleging Iran of having bombed non-military areas in Missan Province.

Speaking to IRNA, he said that the Iranian operations on Tuesday were carefully carried out against a large economic center of the Iraqi regime in northwest of Qal'at Salih, causing heavy damages.

He described the Iraqi claim as being "totally false."

The Iranian Air Force pilots, after successfully carrying out their Tuesday mission, downed two Iraqi helicopters on the way back to their bases.

50 Enemy Troops Killed, Wounded*LD191053 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 19 Mar 86*

[Text] According to a report from the Khatam ol-Anbiya' headquarters, the center for combined operations of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps and the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, during patrol-combat operations north of the salt lake in the "Val-Fajr-8" operational sector last night, the courageous warriors of Islam, supported by intense artillery fire, succeeded in annihilating or wounding more than 50 enemy troops.

During these operations, a large amount of enemy equipment, including several tanks and personnel carriers, were destroyed and the defeated Iraqi forces suffered heavy losses.

Today, the fast-flying pilots of the Airborne Division launched several operations in the "Val-Fajr-8" sector. During these sorties, a large number of enemy arms and equipment and military vehicles were destroyed.

Tehran Arabic Views Murphy Tour, U.S. Policy*GF140438 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 13 Mar 86*

[From the "Behind the News" program]

[Excerpts] Yesterday Richard Murphy, U.S. assistant secretary of state for Near East and South Asian affairs, concluded his tour of a number of countries in the region after he changed his itinerary and postponed his visit to Jordan. He returned to Washington after meeting with Zionist officials.

Murphy's tour, which included Cairo and occupied Jerusalem, in the opinion of some observers, was of special importance because it has been reported that the United States will propose a new program for the so-called peace process in the Middle East. This is in view of the new developments in the region, most prominent of which is the failure of Jordanian-Palestinian coordination last month after King Husayn abolished the Amman accord between him and 'Arafat's faction. King Husayn considered this accord null. During the past 2 days, it was reported in Cairo that King Husayn of Jordan will visit Cairo shortly to discuss with Mubarak the new U.S. move in the region.

Although Murphy did not talk publicly about the new U.S. moves, observers have noticed some signs of this. An example is his remarks while meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Shim'on Peres yesterday; he said that the peace process is now passing through a critical stage of mediation and thinking. Observers who consider this statement as a sign for a new U.S. move in the region believe that what Zionist Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said at Haifa University yesterday — only a few hours after his meeting with Richard Murphy — reveals the nature of the new U.S. move, which is in a great harmony with Zionist wishes.

At any rate, King Husayn's current stand makes him inclined to respond to the joint U.S.-Zionist-Egyptian desire, particularly since his commitments to 'Arafat's wing are completely canceled. Apart from this, recently he began to reiterate words that indicate his political stand independent of the Palestinians and their future in the occupied territories. The possible developments on this level, which indicate a wide-ranging conspiracy to strike at the Palestinian issue through the idea of a temporary settlement, as projected by Rabin yesterday, call on those who are concerned with the Palestinian issue and the conflict with the Zionists to prepare themselves to directly confront the U.S. plan — a plot against the future of this region and the oppressed Palestinian people. Perhaps the correct confrontation with these U.S. plots should pass through Palestinian circles and then through Amman and Cairo, where regimes in these capitals are preparing the atmosphere to implement what the White House wants, in coordination with the Zionists: Plotting against the future of the Palestinian issue.

Tehran-Damascus Relations Reportedly 'Severely Shaky'*GF131953 (Clandestine) Voice of the Liberation of Iran in Persian 1630 GMT 13 Mar 86*

[Text] While world attention is focused on the issue of the French hostages in Beirut and the fact that the Khomeyni regime is

involved in the affair, we have received reliable reports indicating that relations between Tehran and Damascus have become severely shaky.

It is being said in the circles close to the Islamic Republic's Foreign Ministry that the existing differences between the two regimes in Tehran and Damascus increase day by day. Syria, which opened the road for the mullans into the political atmosphere of Lebanon, does not tolerate the disobedience of the Iranian Islamic Revolution Guards Corps [IRGC] stationed in

the Bija' Valley or the independent terrorist actions of the Hizballah, or Islamic Jihad.

During the past few weeks the comings and goings of Khomeyni's elements to Beirut through Syria have been very limited. In addition to this, last week Damascus refused entry to Mohtashami-Pur, Khomeyni's former ambassador to Damascus who wanted to travel to Syria to deliver a personal message from Khamene'i to Hafiz al-Asad.

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Iran-Iraq War

Iraqi planes attacked a "large maritime target" near the Iranian coast 20 March after Iraqi naval forces attacked a bridge in Abadan, two "large maritime targets," and one "very large maritime target" 19 March, according to an Iraqi military spokesman cited in separate INA reports. In an earlier attack, Iraqi planes raided a munitions factory near Ahvaz 19 March, according to an Iraqi military communique broadcast by Voice of the Masses radio. IRNA said the message was in response to reports that U.S. warships had anchored off Karachi. The U.S. ships' presence near the Pakistani port was "a response by foreign powers to recent Iranian gains in the war fronts," IRNA added. In Tehran, the Soviet ambassador delivered a message to an Iranian official from the Soviet prime minister stressing that the USSR "decisively opposes" the use of chemical weapons by anyone for any reason, Tehran radio reported.

Egypt-Israel

Cairo Gunmen Attack Israelis — One Israeli was killed and three others slightly injured when their car was fired on by unidentified gunmen outside the grounds of the Cairo International Trade Fair, MENA reported, adding that Egyptian authorities are searching for the attackers. The report said the Israelis had just finished their work in the Israeli pavilion at the fair when they were attacked from two cars. A group calling itself the "Organization of the Revolutionaries of Egypt" subsequently claimed responsibility for the attack, the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon reported. In a statement distributed to news agencies in Cairo, the group said its "armed Nasirite vanguards" had made the attack to retaliate against the presence of an Israeli pavilion at the Cairo fair, the report added.

Further Talks Held on Tabah — The Egyptian and Israeli delegations held further talks on the Tabah issue in Egypt 19 March, MENA reported. An Egyptian spokesman said that the talks dealt with the use of international arbitration to settle the Tabah dispute, the report added.

Egypt

Jordanian King Arrives — King Husayn arrived in Cairo 20 March on a visit scheduled to last a few hours, MENA reported. King Husayn and President Husni Mubarak held talks immediately following the king's arrival, according to a later Amman radio report.

PRC President Ends Visit — PRC President Li Xiannian concluded the official part of his visit to Egypt 20 March and left Cairo to visit Luxor, MENA reported.

Gaza Strip, Jerusalem Attacks

Israeli Security forces captured two "terrorists" who admitted to the 19 March murder of two residents of Khan Yunis in the Gaza Strip, Jerusalem radio reported. In a separate development, the PLO's "Fatah 17" claimed responsibility for a car bomb which killed one person and wounded three others in Jerusalem 19 March, AFP reported, citing a call to a Western news agency.

OPEC Affairs

Representatives of five OPEC and five non-OPEC oil-exporting countries "held constructive talks" in Geneva 19 March, according to a joint statement on the meeting carried by OPECNA. The statement added that the representatives discussed the present oil market situation "with a view to setting a common ground" for overcoming obstacles. After the meeting, OPEC conference President Arturo Hernandez Grisanti was optimistic that OPEC and non-OPEC states would come to an agreement on a strategy to stabilize the oil market and "restore prices to reasonable levels," according to a later OPECNA report. Some non-OPEC countries which had earlier been unwilling to cooperate with OPEC on bolstering oil prices are now "indicating their awareness that the situation must be corrected," Hernandez said. In remarks reported by KUNA, the Ecuadorian oil minister said OPEC ministers have reached a consensus that OPEC oil production must be cut below 16 million barrels per day in order to "restore" prices.

Iraq-Syria

An Iraqi official spokesman denied Syrian accusations that Iraq was responsible for a booby-trapped truck that exploded in northern Damascus 13 March. In remarks reported by INA, the spokesman said that Iraq "could not have contemplated any harm to its brothers" in Syria, adding that the Syrian leaders "do not hesitate to fabricate a dastardly operation of this type."

Algeria-USSR

President Chadli Bendjedid will "shortly" make an official visit to the USSR, APS reported.

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Pakistani Demonstration Against U.S. Navy Noted*LD180720 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0424 GMT 18 Mar 86*

[Text] Kabul, March 17, BAKHTAR — The people of Pakistan will be staging demonstrations in the cities of Karachi and Lahore protesting the presence of American warships on the shores of Karachi.

Daily *THE MUSLIM* adds that the people of Karachi City will be demonstrating in Karachi City against the movements of the militarymen and the personnel of American warships. The demonstrations will be reportedly held near American consulate in Karachi.

The people of Pakistan regard the landing of American warships on Karachi shores an aggression to the sovereignty as well as a threat to peace and security in the region.

Political Commentator on FRG's 'Hostile Campaign'*LD200743 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0433 GMT 20 Mar 86*

[Text] Kabul, March 19, BAKHTAR — A political commentator of BAKHTAR writes:

The Bonn government is playing an important role in the unprecedented hostile propaganda campaign staged in the West against the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan by the Reagan administration. The Parliamentary Commission for Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Germany (FRG) has illegally held discussions on the situation around Afghanistan.

The authorities of the FRG are following in the footsteps of the U.S. imperialism in organising such spiteful and nefarious functions against the DRA.

The ringleaders of the Afghan counter-revolution as well as Juergen Todenhoeffer and his colleagues, who are members of Parliament of the FRG, had illegally sneaked into Afghanistan along with the counter-revolutionaries for sowing destruction and murder they never utter a word about the objective facts of the April Revolution of the DRA. [sentence as received]

It is noteworthy that contrary to international and diplomatic norms the ambassador of Pakistan to the FRG has also participated at the anti-Afghan hostile hearings which are organised by the notorious circles of the FRG. It is also noteworthy that the ultras of the Social Democratic Party of the FRG play an active part in organising conspiracies and fabricating groundless issues against the DRA.

Recently, three members of the party who are members of [word indistinct] Parliament have made a spiteful visit to Pakistan and carried out talks with the ringleaders of the Afghan counterrevolutionary bands.

One of them, F. Neumann, like Todenhoeffer and his other accomplices, had illegally entered Afghanistan with the counter-

revolutionaries. After accomplishment of his criminal mission in Afghanistan, he returned to his country and now he speaks about the "oppressions" of the limited contingent of the USSR and the "heroism" of the Afghan counterrevolutionaries.

These hirelings of the U.S. imperialism call the fraternal assistance of the USSR to the people of Afghanistan as "oppression" and dub the murder of innocent people of Afghanistan as well as the destruction and arsoning of schools, hospitals, medical centres, irrigation and power system and other public utilities by the counter-revolutionaries and their other crimes as heroism.

It is an established fact that the Washington administration in collusion which the Government of the FRG, without any hesitation that such actions jeopardise world peace, strive to misrepresent the objective revolutionary realities in the DRA to the world public and the people of the FRG and to conceal the reality of the April Revolution. But facts cannot be camouflaged by the veil of guile and hypocrisy.

SPA: 1,000 Soldiers Reportedly Join Mujahidin*GF181442 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1125 GMT 18 Mar 86*

[Text] New Delhi, 18 Mar (SPA) — About 1,000 soldiers of the DRA Government troops escaped during the past week and joined their brother Afghan mujahidin. Western diplomatic sources said that the soldiers escaped during the withdrawal of the agent troops from one of the garrisons in Khost as part of unstudied measures and due to their belief that their presence there was not necessary.

The sources added that battles raged around Herat City in the southwest of Afghanistan during the past days. The Afghan mujahidin triumphed in these battles and managed to down a helicopter.

Mujahidin Down 2 Aircraft, 4 Helicopters*GF181928 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 18 Mar 86*

[Text] Sources close to the Afghan mujahidin said today that the mujahidin downed two Soviet military aircraft and four helicopters in southern Qandahar Province where fierce fighting occurred last week. The sources added that 27 troops of the DRA regime were killed and 90 others were captured by the mujahidin during a battle in the same province after the mujahidin ambushed a column of Soviet supply armored vehicles on 9 March.

The sources stated that the Afghan mujahidin in this ambush destroyed more than 18 vehicles. Following these clashes, Soviet aircraft bombarded the province and destroyed three villages, the sources added.

Bhagat Views U.S. Port Call, Naval Aid to Pakistan

BK200758 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0730 GMT 20 Mar 86

[Text] India has suggested to Pakistan that neither country should give bases or military facilities to third countries on its territory as this is important for the establishment of durable peace and friendly and harmonious bilateral relations. This was conveyed in the draft of a treaty of peace, friendship and cooperation. The external affairs minister, Mr B.R. Bhagat, stated this while replying to a calling attention on the reported anchorage of some U.S. warships including the world's largest aircraft carrier, U.S. *Enterprise* off Karachi harbor. The calling attention was sponsored by Mr Dharampal Singh Malik, Congress-I and others. The minister disclosed that the aircraft carrier U.S. *Enterprise*, accompanied by five U.S. naval vessels, anchored 5 miles west of Karachi on the 15th of this month and departed yesterday. Pakistan media reports indicated the presence of a nuclear submarine also. The minister said that India's concern about the continuing and significant American military assistance to Pakistan which is likely to be on more concessional terms in future has been conveyed to both the governments. India is against the big power presence in our neighborhood. India's stand on the implementation of the UN declaration on the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace has been consistent and steadfast. The government has taken note of the increasing U.S. assistance to the Pakistan Navy which has no connection with the situation in Afghanistan. India has also taken note of reports of facilities in Gwadar and other ports being made available to other countries by Pakistan.

Gandhi Says Terrorism Problem in Punjab 'Serious'

BK191301 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1230 GMT 19 Mar 86

[Text] The prime minister has called upon the police officers to be more vigilant against challenges to the country's security and law and order. Police forces, he said, have to change their attitude and adopt new techniques to meet the threat arising out of subversion, espionage, and communalism. Mr Rajiv Gandhi was addressing the annual conference of the directors general and inspectors general of central and state police organizations in New Delhi today. The prime minister congratulated the police forces on their gallant performance and said the law and order situation is much better now than a year ago. But the new challenges thrown up during the last few months should be met through vigilance and preparedness, he added.

Mr Rajiv Gandhi said the problem of terrorism in Punjab is a serious one. Infiltration from across the border has also not been completely checked. This is true also of other sectors of the international border. The police, therefore, has to be more alert, particularly in the border area. The prime minister observed that smuggling and drug trafficking is another area which requires greater attention by the police officials.

The union home minister, Mr Narasimha Rao; the minister of state for internal security, Mr Arun Nehru; and the minister of state for home affairs, Mr R.N. Mirdha were also present at the meeting.

Prime Minister Meets Sri Lankan Envoy 19 Mar

BK191607 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 19 Mar 86

[Text] The Sri Lankan high commissioner, Mr Bernard Tilakaratna, met the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, in New Delhi today. Mr Tilakaratna has returned from Colombo after consultations with President Jayewardene.

Finance Minister on Smuggling Across Pakistani Border

BK180938 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 18 Mar 86

[Text] The minister of state for finance, Mr Janardan Pujari, told the Rajya Sabha today that the reports received by the government and seizures made so far indicate that the entire India-Pakistan border continues to be vulnerable to smuggling activities. The trends in smuggling are kept under constant vigil in consultation with the concerned central and state government agencies for ensuring proper deployment of staff. Goods worth nearly 350 million rupees were seized in the India-Pakistan border region during the last 2 years.

10 Pakistanis Reportedly Killed in 2 Weeks on Border

HK191438 Hong Kong AFP in English 1440 GMT 19 Mar 86

[Text] New Delhi, March 19 (AFP) — Indian troops killed some 10 Pakistani commandos and wounded an unknown number of others in encounters on the disputed Kashmir border in the past fortnight, the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) said Wednesday.

Official information quoted by the news agency from Indian-held Kashmir's capital, Jammu, said the incidents took place near the Indian border villages of Bagyaladara and Sokar, during repeated attempts by Pakistani plainclothes commandos and troops to enter India.

It said the commandos were challenged and fired on Indian troops, leading to exchanges of fire. It did not mention if there were casualties among the Indians.

Kashmir has been disputed by India and Pakistan since the Indian subcontinent's independence from the British in 1947. The two have fought wars over it in 1947 and 1965. A third war they had in 1971 was related to Bangladesh's independence.

Sikh Militant Leader 'Commits Suicide' 18 Mar

HK180924 Hong Kong AFP in English 0845 GMT 18 Mar 86

[Excerpt] Amritsar, India, March 18 (AFP) — An important Sikh militant leader who was a brother of slain Sikh fundamentalist leader Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale committed suicide Tuesday, police said.

Jagjit Singh Rode, 50, who was general secretary of the militant Sikh United Akali Dal Party, threw himself in front of a speeding train at Moga Town in Punjab Tuesday morning.

Mr Rode's reason for his ending his life was not immediately known.

Mr Bhindranwale was among an officially reported 650 people, mostly Sikh, killed in a June 1984 army assault on the Golden Temple, holiest of the Sikh shrines, located here.

Delhi Reports Death

BK180942 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 18 Mar 86

[Text] Mr Jagjit Singh Rhode, general secretary of the Akali Dal — led by Mr Joginder Singh — died this morning. He was run over by a running train at Faridkot. His body after postmortem will be taken to his native place in village Rhode in Moga subdivision for cremation.

Further Reportage on Violence in Punjab

Curfew Set in 3rd Town

HK191400 Hong Kong AFP in English 1347 GMT 19 Mar 86

[Text] Amritsar, India, March 19 (AFP) — Authorities clamped an indefinite curfew on a third Punjab town Wednesday following Hindu-Sikh clashes related to the death of a top Sikh militant leader Tuesday.

Police fired to break up a mob that was lobbing stones during the incidents in Muktsar, 200 kilometres (125 miles) from here. A local magistrate was hurt in the stoning.

Muktsar was the third town to be placed under curfew in recent weeks in Punjab, where Hindu-Sikh tension has been mounting, following those clamped on Jalandhar and Nakodar.

Wednesday's tension was due to a spurt in the killing of Hindus by suspected Sikh militants fighting for independence for Punjab.

Police said the trouble followed attempts by militant sikhs to force shops to close during a general strike they had called in the town over the death of Jagjit Singh Rode. The attempts were resisted by some shopkeepers, apparently Hindus.

Mr Rode, general secretary of the militant United Akali Dal Party and brother of the late fundamentalist militant leader Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale, was found run over by a train in the state Tuesday.

Police said he committed suicide, but his father, Baba Joginder Singh, who heads the United Dal, and other militant leaders said it was murder and warned of retaliation.

Policeman Killed in Amritsar

BK191609 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 19 Mar 86

[Text] In Punjab, one assistant subinspector of police was shot dead by two unidentified gunmen in Taran Taran in Amritsar District this afternoon. The assailants also took away the service revolver of the deceased and escaped. The official was attacked while he was on the way to his office.

Meanwhile, curfew was clamped in Nakodar and Muktsar today as a precautionary measure in view of some tension and attempts to disturb peace. In Muktsar, police had to open fire to disperse a violent mob engaged in brickbattling. It was reported that some from the mob opened fire. A number of persons, including a subdivisional magistrate and five policemen, were injured in the clashes.

The situation in the curfew bound towns of Jullundur and Batala is reported to be tense but fully under control.

Home Guard March Turns Violent in Calcutta

BK190314 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 19 March 86

[Text] In Calcutta, several police officials, including one deputy commissioner, were injured when a group of home guards turned violent and stoned them and damaged some police vehicles yesterday. The police said that home guards in a procession had reached the city police training school to protest against fresh recruitment for which a large number of people had assembled there. The police resorted to a lathi [baton] charge to disperse the agitating home guards.

2 Killed, 60 Injured as Kohima Police Fire on Mob

BK200849 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 20 Mar 86

[Text] In Kohima, two students were killed when police opened fire to control an unruly mob today. The incident occurred when the students violated Section 144 [law preventing assembly of five or more persons] which was promulgated in several areas in the town this morning. Sixty others were also injured. The injured included 50 policemen and 5 magistrates on duty.

Meanwhile, the 12-hour Kohima bundh [strike] called by the NAGA students federation today affected normal life in the town. The bundh has been called to protest against the extension of the disturbed area belt along the Indo-Burma border from 5 to 20 kilometres.

Ziaul Haq Discusses Domestic, Foreign Issues**Elections, Atomic Program**

*BK180701 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
0200 GMT 18 Mar 86*

[Text] President Mohammad Ziaul Haq has said that Pakistan is no less democratic than any other developing country in the world. In an interview to London Television Channel 4 he said that the newly elected government is functioning well and that soon Pakistan will be counted among the foremost democratic countries. The president said that to begin to restore the democratic process, he had to, first of all, secure for himself the people's approval to be their representative through referendum. This integral status should be sought by all means. In this way the democratic process can be promoted and can become the center of stability. The president said we have established a tradition of holding nonparty elections and now it is up to the elected representatives to decide what should be the political system in the future. The elections were held in order to elect representatives of the people and not political parties.

The political parties that boycotted the elections did not and do not have any place among the people. Sixty-three percent of the people voted in the National Assembly elections and 66 percent in the provincial assembly elections. This reflects the ineffectiveness of the political parties' appeal to boycott the elections. In reply to a question on restrictions on any political party or leader the president said the parliament has approved the Political Parties Act and the laws. There is no restriction on any political leader. He said that it is not only his duty but also that of the government to protect the life of every individual, from top to bottom.

Pakistan is a democratic country and teaches democratic tolerance. There are no political prisoners in the country.

Answering a question, the president said that he has retained temporarily the post of Army chief of staff after consulting with the prime minister. He said he has to coordinate between the newly elected democratic government, and the Armed Forces.

In reply to a question on the atomic program the president said Pakistan is committed to implementing an atomic program for peaceful purposes only. Pakistan has neither the resources nor the desire to utilize atomic energy for military purposes.

On Pakistan-India relations the president said our peace efforts are continuing even though there has been indifference on the part of India since his meeting with the Indian prime minister last December. Referring to the Kashmir issue he said Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo made a policy statement in the assembly that Pakistan desires good relations with India and will continue its efforts to realize this goal. Kashmir is a (problem) between the two countries and this problem will be solved peacefully according to the UN resolutions and in the spirit of the Simla agreement. Pakistan believes in noninterference. The Sikh problem is a problem between the Sikhs and India; Pakistan does not have any share in it. Pakistan does not have any interest in this nor it does have any intention of interfering in the internal

affairs of India. It respects the stand of the Indian Government on this issue.

The president described Pakistani-U.S. relations as very good. The United States has helped us in many ways but it does not mean that Pakistan is dependent on it in any manner. Pakistan wants to stabilize its economy and strengthen its defense forces.

In reply to a question on narcotics he said production of opium last year was only 40 metric tons in comparison to 800 metric tons over the last 9 years. The government is taking every step possible to end poppy cultivation. He thanked the British Government for its assistance in preventing this menace.

On Afghanistan the president said it is a war which deserves the sympathy of everyone. As a result of this war more than 3 million Afghan citizens have sought refuge in Pakistani territory.

Referring to Palestine, the president said Pakistan does not offer any new proposal to solve this problem. Until an understanding is reached between the United States, Israel and the Arab world, it will be difficult to solve this problem.

USSR, U.S., India Relations

*BK171601 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
1500 GMT 17 Mar 86*

[Text] President Mohammad Ziaul Haq has said Pakistan and the Soviet Union enjoy good bilateral relations and it is our endeavor to further improve them further. However, these relations have been affected, to some extent, by the Afghanistan problem, he added. The president was talking to newsmen at the Shalival helipad before his departure this afternoon for Islamabad after a day-long visit to Shalival.

In reply to a question, the president said Pakistan enjoys good relations with the United States and hoped that they will be strengthened further.

He said Pakistan wishes to rejoin the Commonwealth, but with honor. Pakistan should be invited to rejoin the organization, the president observed.

Answering a question about India-Pakistan relations, the president disclosed that the second round of talks between the two countries will be held in New Delhi this month. The first round of talks for the normalization of bilateral relations were held in Islamabad. He expressed the hope that bilateral relations will improve through mutual understanding.

Junejo Sends Message to Ryzhkov on Relations

*BK150228 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT
15 Mar 86*

[Text] The prime minister sent a message to the Soviet prime minister, Nicolay Ryzhkov, from his special plane while overflying Soviet territory. He expressed hope that the relations between the Soviet Union and Pakistan will continue to be promoted for the benefit of the people of both countries and to

help establish peace and stability in the world. He also extended his good wishes to the Soviet prime minister.

Junejo Returns from Sweden, Saudi Arabia

*BK181620 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
1500 GMT 18 Mar 86*

[Text] Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo returned to Islamabad a short while ago after attending the funeral of the assassinated Swedish prime minister, Olof Palme, in Stockholm. On his way back home, the prime minister performed a minor pilgrimage in Mecca, offered prayers in the prophet's mosque in Medina, and paid a visit to the mausoleum of the holy prophet. He was received at the Islamabad airport by the Senate chairman, Ghulam Ishaq Khan, federal ministers, National Assembly members, senior officials, and others.

Views Meeting With Gandhi

*BK190418 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
0200 GMT 19 Mar 86*

[Text] The prime ministers of Pakistan and India have agreed that the process of normalization of relations between the two countries should continue. Speaking at a news conference in Islamabad last night after his return from Sweden and Saudi Arabia, Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo said during his meeting with Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi in Stockholm bilateral relations were reviewed. He expressed the hope that such meetings will promote good-neighborly relations between the two countries.

In reply to a question on Gandhi's proposed visit to Pakistan, the prime minister said that the Indian prime minister had told him that the newspapers did not give correct news about the postponement of the visit. He said he believed that before a meeting of the heads of government an agenda should be prepared unanimously by both the parties. He said a ministerial meeting will be held between the two countries soon to consider the agenda of the high-level meeting. He said his meeting with the Indian prime minister was held in a cordial and friendly atmosphere. Mohammad Khan Junejo said new Swedish Prime Minister Carlsson told him in his farewell meeting that Sweden will continue to support Pakistan's principled stand on Afghanistan. He thanked the Swedish prime minister and the people of Sweden for providing assistance on humanitarian grounds to the Afghan refugees staying in Pakistan. He also met with the king and the queen of Sweden and expressed condolences on the death of the late Olof Palme.

The prime minister described his talks with UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar as extremely constructive and said that at the talks views were exchanged in detail on several matters, particularly on the Afghanistan problem.

Referring to his meeting with Pakistani nationals in Stockholm and Saudi Arabia, he said that he told them about the situation of the country, lifting of the martial law, restoration of the basic rights, and the sovereignty of the judiciary. He lauded the overseas Pakistanis for their attachment to and love of the nation.

Defense Ministry Denies Report on Border Killings

*BK201023 Karachi Domestic Service in English
1005 GMT 20 Mar 86*

[Text] A spokesman of the Ministry of Defense has categorically denied the report of the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA as broadcast by BBC that 10 Pakistani commandos were killed in clashes with the Indian security forces in the Poonch sector recently. Describing the report as totally baseless and incorrect, the spokesman said that the fact was that the Indians had been resorting to indiscriminate firing for the past 2 months on Pakistani civilians living close to the line of control in a number of sectors including Poonch. Consequently, three civilians including a woman were seriously wounded in the Poonch sector alone. Those injured were either working in their fields or were fetching water from the spring situated near the line of control. The spokesman said that no Pakistani troops in uniform or civilian clothes went to the Indian side of line of control.

The Pakistani commandos in the area have lodged strong protest with the UN observers for the serious violation of the line of control by the Indian troops.

Attempt To Kill Iraqi Envoy in Karachi 'Aborted'

GF161330 Lahore JANG in Urdu 11 Mar 86 p 1

[Text] Karachi — An attempt in Karachi to kill the Iraqi consul general by planting a bomb in his car has been aborted. The bomb fell from the car and the car continued on its way. The bomb exploded as soon as it fell but it did not harm the car occupants. According to the details received, some unknown people last night succeeded in getting into the house of the consul general, which is located in Clifton, and planted the bomb underneath the car. As usual, the consul general got into his car next morning, but as soon as he reached the road the bomb fell off and exploded. Police have collected the bomb pieces for investigation.

Bomb Said of 'Foreign Origin'

*GF171412 Rawalpindi THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English
14 Mar 86 p 1*

[Text] Karachi, March 13: The bomb planted to blow up the car of Iraqi vice Consul-General outside his residence here on March 9, was of foreign origin, containing F-6 plastic explosives and weighed one kilo.

Mr Peer Muhammad, Platoon Commander Bomb Disposal Squad, Karachi told PPI here today that it was a highly dangerous bomb and was used by Irish Republic Army recently. The recovery from the spot was semi-solid white colour 16 volt dry cell about 1 1/4 meter with two electric wires.

On inspection at point of explosion it was revealed that one kilo F-6 explosive with electric detonator with delay device locally made in the cover of match box in conjunction with six volt dry cell battery fitted at the bottom of the car was separated while the car was moving out.

SRI LANKA

Security Forces Kill 4 'Terrorists' in Batticaloa

*BK141127 Colombo International Service in English
1030 GMT 14 Mar 86*

[Text] Four Marxist terrorists belonging to the People's Liberation Organization of Tamil Eelam were killed and 15 other terrorists were captured by security forces when a terrorist base was raided last Wednesday [12 March] at (Treinalla Vanni) in the Batticaloa district in eastern Sri Lanka. Security sources told LANKA PUWATH that when the troops approached the location of the terrorist base, terrorists opened fire at the troops and threw hand grenades. Troops returned fire effectively, killing four terrorists. There were no casualties to the security forces personnel. During the operations, the security forces captured 15 terrorists and recovered a cache of arms and ammunition.

Marxist terrorists operating in Sri Lanka's northern and eastern provinces have once again started to launch their attacks on innocent Muslims living in these two provinces. According to security sources, a gang of Marxist terrorists abducted a Muslim at (Wattarana Veluwaia) in eastern Sri Lanka last Tuesday. On Wednesday, at Kuchchveli in Trincomalee, also in eastern Sri Lanka, Marxist terrorists robbed jewelry and cash valued at 100,000 rupees from some Muslims who were traveling along the Kuchchveli-Nilaveli road.

2 Sailors Killed in Landmine Explosion 14 Mar

*BK151059 Colombo International Service in English
1030 GMT 15 Mar 86*

[Text] Two sailors attached to the naval camp at Trincomalee were killed on the spot and two others seriously injured in a landmine explosion in Trincomalee yesterday morning. According to security sources, the three Navy vehicles were traveling to the Trincomalee base from a nearby farm when the incident took place.

On Thursday evening, a sailor collapsed in the camp premises on his return after posting a letter to his mother. It was said he had bought a stamp from the [words indistinct] of the camp. Investigations are now being made to find out whether cyanide had been applied on the stamp and whether the sailor had ingested it when pasting on the stamp.

Police Seize 2 'Large Barrels' of Gunpowder

*BK151130 Colombo International Service in English
1030 GMT 15 Mar 86*

[Text] The CID [Criminal Investigation Department] has seized two large barrels of gunpowder and ammunition from a grain shop in (Lematagode), Colombo, and taken its owner and two employees into custody. Investigation revealed that the shop owner, a native of Ratnapura, was a close associate of (Puwaraid Jayaseelan), wanted by the police in connection with the city bomb blast last month. The two barrels of gunpowder had been unloaded at the shop by a close relative of Jayaseelan.

Bomb Blast in Train Kills 5, Injures 25

*BK151401 Delhi General Overseas Service in English
1330 GMT 15 Mar 86*

[Text] In northern Sri Lanka, at least 5 persons were killed and 25 injured in a bomb blast which rocked the Jaffna bound Yaldevi express train near (Parangan) about 400 km north of Colombo. According to preliminary information reaching Colombo, a huge explosion was heard by the passengers of the train at about 1235 in the afternoon. At least three compartments of the train got blasted and some others got derailed. A relief train left Jaffna at 1530 this afternoon to bring back the injured and other passenger.

A passenger who reached Jaffna by a bus after the accident said some of the injured were caught under the wreckage.

Security Forces Capture 46 'Terrorists' in East

*BK161306 Colombo Domestic Service in English
1245 GMT 16 Mar 86*

[Text] Forty-six Marxist terrorists were captured by the security forces yesterday at Nawaladi in the eastern province. Security forces told LANKA PUWATH that, on information received that terrorists were operating in the Nawaladi area, a search operation was conducted. The captured terrorists are being interrogated.

Autonomy Plan To Solve Tamil Problem Prepared

HK181100 Hong Kong AFP in English 1036 GMT 18 Mar 86

[Text] Colombo, March 18 (AFP) — An autonomy plan is being readied by the government as part of a political solution to the ethnic Tamil crisis which has cost at least 1,300 lives in the past 15 months, reliable sources said here Tuesday.

The initial step would be to set up a provincial council in the disputed Eastern Province with a chief minister at its head, the sources said.

The plan falls short of a merger of the Northern and Eastern Provinces as demanded by the Tamil United Liberation Front (TULF), the main Tamil political party and some of the militant separatist groups, the sources told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE.

Tamil militants have been waging a long-running campaign for a separate state which triggered bloody riots in Colombo and elsewhere on July 1983. As the crisis has continued, at least 1,300 people have been died [as received] in incidents linked with the Tamil issue in the past 13 months.

Under the plan, the provinces would be granted maximum devolution within Sri Lanka's unitary constitution without involving a public referendum which is legally required if fundamental constitutional changes were to be made, the sources added.

According to the sources, the plan would be first applied in Eastern Province and later in seven of the remaining eight

provinces with the Northern Province — heartland of the Tamil separatists campaign — being left out.

The new plan incorporates elements from the so-called Annexure C, a document prepared with Indian participation for the aborted national roundtable conference in 1984 and the more recent September 1985 accord with India. It would give the provinces wide powers over land, education, law and order within the region and their own police force, the sources said.

In informed circles, the government was held to believe that as the plan did not allow for an amalgamation of the Northern and Eastern Provinces — which has been rejected by all major southern parties — it would be accepted by others too who desired an end to the Tamil crisis.

The plan has been hammered out after the so-called secret talks between the government and representatives of the TULF, but which are publicly described as "clarifications" sought through the Indian envoy here.

India which offered its good offices to help bring the warring sides together assisted in arranging a ceasefire between the government forces and the five major militant separatist groups. It also helped set up the abortive talks between them in Thimpu, the Bhutanese capital, last August.

Eastern Province has a multi-ethnic population with Tamils in the minority. Officials believe that if the autonomy plan was effective there and in the rest of the country, the residents of the Tamil-dominated north might see the advantage of accepting the same legislative structure instead of a separate state as some militants demand.

However the government wanted to secure Eastern Province militarily before proceeding with the autonomy idea, sources said.

This is considered important as free elections would have to be held in Eastern Province to elect the provincial council, the sources said.

National Security Minister Lalith Athulathmudali said recently that the security situation in Eastern Province had improved considerably.

In informed circles, this improved security position was expected to lead in the next few weeks to an information drive to tell the people there what was in the offing in the way of increased control over their own affairs and the impossibility of the militants achieving a separate state.

Tamil Leaders Deny Knowledge

HK190740 Hong Kong AFP in English 0718 GMT 19 Mar 86

[Text] Colombo, March 19 (AFP) — The main Tamil political party said Wednesday it has not been informed of any new government plan to grant autonomy to the disputed Eastern Province as a step toward political settlement of the ethnic Tamil crisis.

A spokesman for the Tamil United Liberation Front (TULF) said its leaders telephoned from Madras in southern India to say they were unaware of moves by the Colombo government to create a provincial council for the Eastern Province.

"The TULF leadership states that no aspect of the plan has been discussed with them. We wish to reiterate that in no way have we compromised on the issue of the merger of the Northern and Eastern Provinces," the spokesman told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE.

Reliable sources said Tuesday that the government was planning to set up provincial councils headed by chief ministers which would have wide powers over land policy, education, and internal law and order.

While the government was prepared to grant maximum devolution to the provinces within Sri Lanka's unitary constitution, it would not allow merger of the Northern and Eastern Provinces as demanded by TULF and some of the militant separatist groups.

The sources said the government had worked out its plan after seeking "clarifications" from TULF on certain issues, with the Indian envoy here acting as intermediary.

Tamil militants have been waging a long-running campaign for a separate state, and at least 1,300 people have died in incidents linked with the issue in the past 13 months.

Khamene'i Urges Continued Armed Forces Solidarity*LD191613 Tehran IRNA in English 1530 GMT 19 Mar 86*

[Text] Tehran, March 19, IRNA — 'Ali Khamene'i the president of the Islamic Republic Wednesday called on the Armed Forces to preserve their solidarity.

Speaking in graduation ceremonies of the Air Force non-commissioned officers here the president said that isolationism is an enemy of the army. "If some people distinct [as received] their social class from others, they will surely help the enemies of the Islamic Republic of Iran" he said.

After the victory of 1979 Islamic revolution, the army went through structural changes and it is now fighting against Iraq together with the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC).

Khamene'i who also heads the Supreme Defence Council compared today's army with that of the pre-revolutionary era and said Iran has never had an Islamic army. "The leadership of previous armies were dependent on foreign cultures" he said.

On the role of the Islamic Republic's Army, the president said that it does not intend to interfere with the affairs of other countries nor does it plan for military expeditions.

Khamene'i added that Iranian resistance against Iraq will become a model for other nations.

At the end of the ceremonies, armed units marched in front of the Koran [as received] and the head of the Supreme Defence Council.

The ceremonies were also attended by imam's representative in the Supreme Defence Council General Qasem 'Ali Zahirnezhad, Minister of Defence Colonel Mohammad Hoseyn Jalali, head of Air Force Captain [rank as received] Hushang Sediq as well as the head of Navy Captain Hoseyn Malekzadegan.

Guards Corps 'Prepared' To Fight U.S. Troops*LD191339 Tehran IRNA in English 1304 GMT 19 Mar 86*

[Text] Tehran, March 19, IRNA — Members of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC) said they are prepared to fight U.S. troops and "send them to the bottom of the Persian Gulf".

In a message to Imam Khomeyni, the leader of the Islamic Revolution, the IRGC Second Corps said it was "prepared to stand against American soldiers and to destroy the U.S. under the boot".

The message was in response to last week's anchoring of U.S. warships off the Pakistani port of Karachi that followed the arrival of a French military vessel in the Persian Gulf.

In reference to the United States the message said "we combatants who have been facing the enemy since the early days of the Islamic Revolution... continue to stand firm and hold no value for the threats of the great Satan".

Iranian media viewed the arrival of the ships as a response by foreign powers to recent Iranian gains in the war fronts. The United States later said it was concerned about the expansion of the imposed Iraqi war into the Persian Gulf.

According to news reports from Pakistan Muslims demonstrated in Islamabad, Lahore, Karachi and other cities of Pakistan in protest to the presence of the U.S. warships. Several newspapers including the Islamabad *JANG* carried editorials in support of the protests.

In Tehran *JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI* newspaper said the demo [as received] indicated the expansion of the Islamic Revolution beyond Iranian borders.

Montazeri on U.S. 'Covetous Designs' in Gulf*LD192247 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 19 Mar 86*

[Text] Grand Ayatollah Montazeri met with a large group of Pakistani, Indian and Bangladeshi seminarists, scholars and clergymen who reside in Qom's religious seminary, together with the Hezbollahi inhabitants of that city in his residence following a march denouncing the presence of the U.S. fleet on Pakistan's shores. Grand Ayatollah Montazeri made a speech expressing appreciation for the sense of responsibility felt by Pakistani, Indian and Bangladeshi seminarists and scholars, their demonstrations and expressions of revulsion against that U.S. plot. He graciously said:

So far every blow dealt to the deprived and meek countries, to Islam and Muslims in the Islamic world has been by the non-Muslim heads and amirs who have sold themselves to foreigners and by hireling clergymen subservient to the courts of the tyrants who whitewashed the iniquities and crimes perpetrated by major, colonialist powers.

Grand Ayatollah Montazeri graciously continued: On his journey to Karbala' the holy Imam Husayn — may peace be upon him — recalled a tradition going back to the prophet — may Allah's benedictions and peace be upon him and his scion. This tradition says: Anyone who experiences some iniquity or act of aggression from some sultan or tyrant but prefers to remain silent and indifferent without moving or reacting in the least against that iniquity and tyrant, it would only be right for God Almighty to unite such individuals with the selfsame tyrant on the Day of Judgment! In accordance with this behest by the holy imam, those who in the name of Islam and in the garb of the clergy proceed to justify the iniquities and crimes of the satanical powers are no less culpable than the supporters, backers and ministers of that sultan and tyrant. In fact, they could be even more so since by justifying the iniquities and crimes the masses of the Muslim people are also misled and resort to iniquity; the foundations of the government of tyrants are thereby further consolidated and strengthened!

Referring to U.S. covetous designs in the Islamic countries and Persian Gulf he graciously emphasised: I do not know how the heads of a great many of these countries could develop an attachment to the United States and other powers. Can they have

forgotten history and the fate of Shah Mohammad Reza who, despite all the support he received from the United States and others, at long last when the nation became aware and rose up, could only flee and descend into the rubbish heap of history? How can these heads put up with such abjection and thereby turn their nations into captives of the United States and the colonialist powers? At the same time they amass the monies and riches of their countries in U.S. and European banks so that the United States, by using this money and the interest accrued, can assist the aggressor Israel. In this way Israel can strike at the venal heads of these countries and at the wronged Muslims of Palestine and Lebanon. How can these people be prepared to step along the path of United States and European interests and place their oil, as sales goods at cut-rate prices, at the disposal of the United States and Europe? They thereby deal such a big blow to the economy of Muslims and Islamic countries.

He graciously reminded: Is it not their shame when the United States says that U.S. interests in the Gulf have been endangered? This is part and parcel of their venality and subservience — as heads of countries — to the United States! How can they live with such shame and abjection? How can they answer their own nations? Do they not fear divine wrath and anger and the awakening and rising of the Islamic nation? Do they not observe how growth and awareness among the nations of Lebanon, Palestine, Egypt, Afghanistan and other places are daily on the increase? With such conditions do they predict for themselves any other fate but that of Mohammad Reza, Marcos and their ilk? For how long are they going to sell themselves to the United States and Israel?

Addressing Pakistani seminarists and scholars, Grand Ayatollah Montazeri then graciously said: Regarding your demonstrations, although seemingly small, you must know that all uprising and revolutions begin from small movements by the people! In the beginning of Iran's Islamic Revolution the people's demonstrations and marches were also small and compact, but you have witnessed where these finally led and what they did to the regime of Shah Mohammad Reza!

He graciously emphasised: Let the heads of those countries subservient to the United States and other powers know that the United States will only back them as far as its own interests dictate! It is never mindful of their good name and dignity and the interests of the subjugated nations! Once it sees that it is futile it will forget them and just as it fled from Lebanon, it will take to its heels! At such a juncture it will only be these wakeful and fighting nations who will settle scores with venal and foreign individuals!

Ryzhkov Message Opposes Use of Chemical Weapons

*LD191707 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1630 GMT 19 Mar 86*

[Text] The Soviet ambassador to Tehran has met with our prime minister's political deputy this afternoon and handed him a written message from USSR Council of Ministers Chairman Ryzhkov for our country's prime minister. In this message the Soviet premier replied to a suggestion from Mir Hoseyn Musavi to condemn Iraq for its use of chemical weapons, emphasized that

the USSR regards chemical weapons as one of the most dangerous and bestial means of mass extermination and decisively opposes their use by anyone, anywhere and for whatever reason.

Our prime minister's political deputy replied and expressed thanks for this message. He said that it would be appropriate if we were to see similar reactions from the USSR in connection with other instances of the Iraqi regime's violations of international laws such as raids against population centers, mercantile shipping and passenger airliners.

Musavi Discusses GCC Support of Iraq, Ties to U.S.

GF161255 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 6 Mar 86 p 3

[Text] Prime Minister Engineer Musavi held a press interview after the Cabinet session yesterday and spoke about the latest stand by the GCC member-countries and the warning issued to them. The prime minister said: We will take a stand against this position of the GCC member-countries and will never compromise. The GCC member-countries should pay attention to the decision of our nation because they are sitting on a volcano of the wrath of a nation.

The prime minister also said the GCC member-countries do not understand that they are confronting a revolution, this revolution has roots among the people of other countries. The shaykhs themselves, due to their support of the warmongering Iraqi regime and dependence on world oppressors, have no support from the people of their countries. Therefore, this stance will harm them and it will do them no good to tie their fate with that of Saddam.

The prime minister added that the GCC member-countries from the very beginning of the imposed war have been on the side of the aggressive Saddam regime. Their latest resolution, which should be given the name Council for Cooperation with the United States, is meant to put pressure on the Islamic Republic and to end the war the way they want.

While praising the sacrifices and effective efforts of the oil industry workers the prime minister said: This reveals the workers' sacrificial actions and also those of the engineers. One can claim that today in the Third World it is only the Islamic Republic of Iran which can run the complicated oil industry in the best possible way.

Majlis Deputy Describes GCC as Militarily 'Weak'

LD171533 Tehran IRNA in English 1500 GMT 17 Mar 86

[Text] Tehran, March 17, IRNA — Majlis deputy from Tehran Fakhreddin Hejazi said here Monday that the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council (PGCC) member countries are militarily and numerically weak and therefore it is unrealistic for them to squander their resources in a confrontation with Iran.

Speaking in the open session of the Majlis (Islamic Consultative Assembly), Hejazi described the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) leader, Yasir 'Arafat, as an "international broker". He said Palestinian people are ashamed of such a leader.

The majlis deputy stressed that the Iranian people are prepared to turn the region into a mass grave for the U.S. and French forces.

Said he sarcastically "The U.S.'s backing of the Persian Gulf sheikhdoms would be as effective as it was for the deposed Marcos of the Philippines, Duvalier of Haiti and Somoza of Nicaragua."

Referring to the hullabaloo raised recently in the Persian Gulf by the PGCC and the U.S. Hejazi once again announced the preparedness of the Iranian people for a crucial confrontation.

Supreme Defense Council Meets on War Developments

GF200717 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
0430 GMT 20 Mar 86

[Text] Last night the Supreme Defense Council convened a meeting to assess the situation on the fronts and the future circumstances in order to formulate decisions concerning the war. The imam's deputy in the Supreme Defense Council, Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, spoke on the latest developments in the trend of the imposed war, effects of the Islamic combatants' victories on the region and on the international scale, as well as threats by the United States, France and Great Britain against the Islamic Republic of Iran. The detailed interview of the Supreme Defense Council spokesman will be broadcast after this newscast.

Velayati Sends Message to Gandhi on Iraqi CW

LD192103 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1630 GMT 19 Mar 86

[Text] Following the publication of the UN report about extensive use of chemical weapons by the aggressive Iraqi regime in the imposed war, our country's foreign minister has sent a message addressed to Rajiv Gandhi, the chairman of the Non-aligned Movement. The message says in part:

It is now more than 2,000 days since the Iraqi Ba'thist regime's military aggression against the territory of the Islamic Republic of Iran. During that period, flagrant attacks by the aggressive Iraqi regime against the Islamic Republic of Iran, and that regime's violation of international norms and conventions have frequently been communicated to the movement's members. As Your Excellency is aware, the final document of the third non-aligned summit in Lusaka banned and condemned the use of chemical weapons. The action was also condemned in different terms at the conference of foreign ministers of the Nonaligned Movement held in Angola in 1985.

Following the repeated perpetration of that crime by the Iraqi regime on the fronts and even in Abadan city on an extensive scale, UN experts and specialists examined those injured by poisonous gases, visited warfronts, and saw the evidence for themselves. They once again stated their clear view in March 1986 that Iraq had used such weapons against Muslim Iranian forces. That view was also communicated to the Security Council by the UN secretary general.

In the light of the fact that the 1925 Geneva Protocol banned the use of chemical and poisonous gases — which has been signed by most countries — and the fact that nonaligned resolutions have also condemned their use, one legitimately expects that Your Excellency, as chairman of the Nonaligned Movement and prime minister of India, will condemn this criminal action and thus further strengthen humane principles and give credibility and force to international undertakings.

In the same connection, our country's foreign minister sent a similar message to Sharif Uddin Pirzada, secretary general of the Islamic Conference Organization.

Agriculture Minister Zali Visits Turkey

Departs Tehran

LD132023 Tehran IRNA in English 1730 GMT 13 Mar 86

[Text] Tehran, March 13, IRNA — Minister of Agriculture 'Abbas 'Ali Zali left here Thursday for Turkey heading an agricultural delegation.

The minister is scheduled to participate in the second meeting of ministers of agricultures of Islamic countries as well as regional session of Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

Before leaving, Zali said about half of the 51 countries attending the FAO seminar are Muslim which are producing one third of the world rice, 40 million tons of wheat and 40 percent of the globe's oil.

The Iranian minister further said that Islamic countries should cooperate on agricultural research and training.

Delivers Musavi Message to Ozal

LD182047 Tehran IRNA in English 1540 GMT 18 Mar 86

[Text] Tehran, March 18, IRNA — Agriculture Minister 'Abbas 'Ali Zali Tuesday hand delivered a message from Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi to his Turkish counterpart Turgut Ozal in Ankara.

Also discussed in the meeting was bilateral cooperation.

'Abbas 'Ali Zali is currently in Turkey at the head of a delegation to participate in the 18th regional session of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

During the session Zali met his counterparts from Turkey, Pakistani, Libya, Syria and United Arab Emirates.

In the meetings Zali referred to cooperation of the Muslim countries and said that such collaboration would aid the said countries in their goal to attain self-sufficiency.

Iraqi Kurds Reportedly Capture Two Army Bases

LD191237 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 19 Mar 86

[Text] The Iraqi Hezbollahi peshmerga have fully occupied two bases of the Iraqi regime. The Central News Unit, quoting the weekly *AL-SHAHADAH*, reports: The Iraqi Kurdish Hezbollahi peshmerga, during a fierce clash with forces of Saddam's army which lasted more than 8 hours, succeeded in capturing the Qazni-Ganah and Mandiyan bases, near the Iraqi town of Sadiq. During these operations, several of the regime's troops, including the commanders of these two bases, were killed.

At the same time, another group of the Iraqi Hezbollahi Kurdish peshmerga launched operations along the Diyanah and Mirgah Sur front and captured arms and military hardware as booty.

Reportage on Combat Operations in War With Iraq**Communique No 2414**

LD191611 Tehran IRNA in English 1600 GMT 19 Mar 86

[Text] Tehran, March 19, IRNA — Iran's Muslim combatants killed at least five Iraqi soldiers demolishing their positions and fortifications in the western operational regions, according to a military communique released by the Joint Staff Command of the Armed Forces here Wednesday.

In its Communique Number 2414, the Joint Staff said the combatants killed and wounded another group of Iraqi troops in northwestern front and silenced the enemy's artillery fire and smashed their positions and equipments.

Iranian forces "continued tactical pressure on the enemy in the fronts and carried out several patrol missions taking some Iraqi soldiers prisoner" the communique added.

In the southern battlefronts, Iranian combatants consolidated their defence positions, the communique said, while their patrol units damaged the enemy's engineering efforts and prevented the movement of the Iraqi forces.

The communique said Muslim combatants thwarted Iraqi threats by suitable tactics and weakened Iraqi offence facilities by shelling their tank units near 'Yebis' region and vehicle columns in "Nim-Istgah 90" region.

The communique added that Iraqi aggressive warplanes were forced to flee from (Kian Dasht) region by the anti-aircraft fire of the Iranian Muslim forces.

Iraqi Forces 'Routed'

GF200443 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
0430 GMT 20 Mar 86

[Text] The Khatam ol-Anbiya' headquarters reported a few minutes ago that last night two divisions of the defeated enemy forces, which were attempting to approach their own forces' positions in the "Val-Fajr-8" operational zone north of the salt

lake, were subjected to the fire of the Islamic warriors' artillery and were routed before they could carry out any dastardly acts. They were forced to flee from the area after sustaining losses, with tens of them killed or wounded.

Tabriz Commentary Views French Credibility

GF141149 Tabriz International Service in Azeri
1715 GMT 12 Mar 86

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Dear listeners, by handing over two Iraqi revolutionaries to the Baghdad regime, the socialist French Government has brought a serious crisis upon itself. The French Government is now experiencing the outcome of its treacherous move which is making it impossible for France to change anything in its favor. Two Muslim revolutionaries, Hamzah Fawzi and Hasan Khayr al-Din, were arrested by the police on 12 February and handed over to the Baghdad regime on 19 February for execution, with the approval of the officials of the socialist French regime. Reports say that the French police deported the two revolutionaries to Baghdad. They were drugged with morphine at the time they left Orly Airport in Paris. Reports also say that at least one of them was executed shortly after arriving in Baghdad.

Now the French Government must explain the reason for its cooperation in the execution of the Muslim revolutionaries. Through such disgusting measures, the socialists willingly subjected themselves to a serious crisis. While endeavoring to end the crisis, they have further broadened it.

The underground organization known as the Islamic Jihad has disclosed that kidnapped Michel Seurat was executed in order to avenge the handing over of two Muslim revolutionaries to the Baghdad regime. It is believed that the axis of this organization's activities is in Lebanon. Taking responsibility for the kidnapping of another four French spies, the Islamic Jihad organization also said that they have been temporarily kidnapped in order to facilitate investigations into their suspicious moves. This organization, which is known for its serious statements, has given the socialist French regime a week — warning the officials at Elysee Palace that the situation is very serious. The life of the members of the group depends on the decisions to be adopted by the Elysee Palace.

It is obvious that the Elysee Palace has seriously considered this state of affairs. It moved to set up a committee for freeing the French spies. Meanwhile, the first secretary of the ruling Socialist Party in France said that it would be better if Iraq deported the two prisoners to Syria. The truth, however, is that the French socialists handed over the two revolutionaries to the Baghdad regime because of their anxiety over using the hundreds of criminals and terrorists which they know are protected by the French police. France was once publicized as the refuge of freedom lovers and revolutionaries. However, it has currently become the refuge of terrorists, pirates, and criminals. France is now treacherously handing over true revolutionaries to bloodsucking regimes for punishment.

The socialist French Government has undermined the feelings of the French people and presented them in an ugly form to the world peoples. Undoubtedly, the people of France will derive no pride from Mitterrand's conversion of France into a refuge for terrorists and criminals and his handing over to the Iraqi Ba'athist regime the true Muslims who are waging a struggle against bloodsucking regimes like the one headed by Saddam. Reports say that the Elysee Palace and all the decisionmaking authorities in Paris were aware of the fate awaiting the two Muslim revolutionaries in Baghdad. They purposely made this decision after considering the outcome of such a treacherous move.

The French prime minister claimed that he would not yield. He feigned dreading the idea of accepting the fact that France has been giving in to terrorists for years now. So much has the [word indistinct] of the police in France deteriorated that even the terrorists, whose files are in the courts for criminal offenses, are being given protection. [passage indistinct]

The French ambassador to Iraq has claimed that he held talks in Baghdad with Hamzah Fawzi and Hasan Khayr al-Din. However, until reports are released about the fate of the two Muslim revolutionaries and until they are (out of the reach) of the bloodsucking Baghdad regime, such claims can change nothing. Coming simultaneously with the statements made by the officials in Paris, the claim is insignificant. As such the two viewpoints are totally in conflict. While on the one hand the prime minister of the French socialist regime argues that he will not give in, on the other, the French ambassador in Baghdad circulates a report that the two revolutionaries, who are being held in the claws of the Baghdad regime, are alive — a move made to mislead the world opinion.

The socialists have argued that this change and the handing over of the revolutionaries to the Baghdad regime took place without the knowledge of the officials. The French interior minister and the prime minister became aware of this state of affairs too late. All this was at a time when the French press, including *LE FIGARO*, pointed out that the French interior minister was fully informed about the handing over of two Muslim Iraqis to the Baghdad regime and that he himself was responsible for the measure.

The French people must ask the socialists why they have brought a serious threat on French citizens around the world through their measures. The French people must tell the socialists that regardless of the French prime minister's claim, moving back and rectifying past differences will not threaten the life of French citizens. What poses a serious threat to French citizens are the moves of the officials in Paris against the peoples — particularly against those in the Near East region. The unyielding position of the French prime minister is not due to his valor. However, it probably demonstrates the helplessness of the officials in Paris in reaching decisions. This state of affairs has proved that none of the ruling circles of the socialists has the courage to act in the direction of (?removing) the major figures within them.

The oil region of the Islamic world in the Near East is undergoing a crisis at the present time. The move made by the socialists to test their chances in this region and in this sensitive situation is not in the interests of France and the French people. If they

continue to be subjected to such dangerous tests, then the current issue should be a sufficient lesson to the Elysee Palace. The socialists would do better by expressing their views about the depraved situation in France. If they have escape avenues for ending the many economic and social problems in France, then let them show them, to the French people. Let them do this so as to win the confidence of the French people and their votes in the forthcoming elections.

However, there is no positive view in France regarding the future of the socialists in that country.

Commentary 'Demands' That OPEC Declare 'Oil Fast'

GF181406 Tehran International Service in Arabic
1100 GMT 18 Mar 86

[Unattributed "talk"]

[Text] Brothers and sisters, the oil battle now being fought by OPEC against economic colonialism is considered to be a decisive battle. If OPEC triumphs and restores its previous prestige and achieves the ambitions of the oppressed people of the world and the developing countries — which have largely benefited from the OPEC aid fund — then it will place itself in the service of the U.S.-British program. This program is aimed at rupturing the unity of OPEC in preparation for dissolving it and at reducing oil prices to very low rates that do not even meet the cost of pumping oil from underground. This rupture will even harm the governments which cooperate with the United States, foremost of which are Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, because these two countries will be subjected to security and social problems that are more dangerous than problems caused by wars.

On this basis all should join hands with the Islamic Republic of Iran, Libya, and Algeria, which are calling for stopping production and for chopping off the long arm of the free oil market where oil is sold at the cheapest prices established by Britain and Saudi Arabia to create a price war. This war, which was agreed on beforehand, will only benefit the opportunists backed by neocolonialists who are only concerned with achieving redundant profits at the expense of the development plans of the oil-producing countries, the life of the toiling masses, and the education and raising of our children.

Neocolonialists want to educate their children and leave our children to suffer from illiteracy. Neocolonialists want prosperity for those working in their monopolizing companies and leave our workers living in zinc houses [as heard]. The neocolonialists want to use Israel and South Africa as a strong stick against the liberated people after foiling the use of oil as political and economic weapons. In light of what we have said, we demand that OPEC declare an oil fast for several months or years, if necessary, to foil the plot of the price decline. If this is not done the people will declare their revolution against anyone who seeks to cooperate with their enemies at the expense of their life. The slogan raised by Mani Sa'id al-Utaybah, UAE minister of petroleum and natural resources, should be supported by all the GCC countries. This is the least that can be done to maintain the aspirations of peoples.

Afghan Mujahidin Attack Military Airfield in Feyzabad*LD191747 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian**1630 GMT 19 Mar 86*

[Text] The military airfield of the joint occupation forces and the Afghan Government forces in the city of Feyzabad, the capital of Badakhshan Province, became the target of attacks by Afghan Muslim revolutionaries on 3 March 1986. In the course of these operations a number of military aircraft parked on the runway and 25 tanks and means of transport of the occupation forces sustained substantial damage.

The report reads: In the course of these operations, along with the destruction of the posts of the joint forces around the airfield,

which culminated in the killing of a large number of joint forces, an ammunition dump and Feyzabad's power station were set ablaze and destroyed. According to the same report, the Afghan Muslim revolutionaries, in a missile attack on the positions of the joint forces in the Meydan area, destroyed a military transport aircraft and four missile-launching bases of the joint forces. In the course of these operations 80 troops of the joint forces were either killed or wounded.

Meanwhile, in an attack launched by the Afghan Muslim revolutionaries against the Anar Darreh post in Farah Province this week the post was utterly destroyed and 25 government troops stationed there were killed while another 16 were wounded.

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

21 MARCH 1986

Champs Elysees Bombing Claimed

The "Committee of Solidarity With Arab and Middle East Political Prisoners in Europe" claimed responsibility for the 20 March bombing of a Champs Elysees shopping gallery that killed 2 people and injured about 30 others, Paris radio reported. A spokesman for the group told the clandestine Voice of the Mountain radio that there will be further bombings in the streets of Paris unless France releases three of the group's "strugglers" being held in French prisons. The spokesman said that while the group regrets the death of innocent people, it considers French citizens to be the "dispensable victims" of their government's policies. He also warned that the "streets and citizens of Rome" would be attacked unless Italy released two of the group's "strugglers."

Iran-Iraq War

Iraqi planes destroyed two Iranian bridges over the Karun River 21 March, according to a military statement reported by Voice of the Masses radio. An Iraqi military communique broadcast by the radio earlier claimed that Iraqi planes attacked another "large maritime target" near the Iranian coast as well as a television relay station and gas station near Shadegan 20 March. In separate reports, INA cited Lloyd's insurance company announcements that a Cypriot and a Liberian oil tanker were hit in missile attacks near Khark Island 20 March.

Meanwhile, Iranian planes attacked an Iraqi Army headquarters "deep inside" Iraqi territory 20 March, according to an Iranian military communique cited by IRNA. In another development, the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps minister claimed that the fall of the Iraqi port of Umm Qasr and its naval base is "imminent." IRNA reported.

Egypt-Israel

President Husni Mubarak offered sincere condolences to Israel over the 19 March shooting incident outside the Cairo trade fair that left one Israeli dead and three others wounded, MENA reported, citing remarks by the Egyptian tourism minister. In a meeting with the Israeli tourism minister, Mubarak called the attack by gunmen the work of an "extremist minority," and stressing his desire for strengthened Egyptian-Israeli relations he ordered the remaining travel restrictions between the two countries to be lifted, MENA added. Beirut radio later reported that Egyptian authorities have given permission for an Israeli team to take part in the investigations.

In another development, MENA reported that the fifth round of the Tabah talks ended in Cairo 20 March. The Egyptian delegation spokesman told MENA that the delegations made "reasonably good progress" on procedural issues related to the "arbitral compromise" and said that the next round of talks will be held in Israel in the middle of next week.

Egypt-USSR

People's Assembly Speaker Rif'at al-Mahjub met with a visiting Soviet parliamentary delegation led by Pavel Gilashvili, deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, MENA reported. Gilashvili said the USSR is anxious to expand relations with Egypt "in all spheres," while Al-Mahjub declared that Egypt is "eager" to develop its relations with the USSR, the report added.

King Husayn Discusses PLO Ties in Egypt

King Husayn returned to Jordan following a 1-day visit to Egypt, Amman television reported. After his 4-hour meeting with President Mubarak in Cairo 20 March, King Husayn said Jordanian efforts to achieve peace in the Middle East have reached a "dead end," adding that "we and all the concerned parties in the area are now observing a period of contemplation," MENA reported. The king further remarked that there has been "nothing new" in Jordanian-PLO relations since Jordan halted political coordination with the PLO 19 February.

PLO-Syria

The PLO has decided to "turn over a new leaf" with Syria, PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat said in an interview with the UAE's *AL-ITTIHAD AL-USBU'I* that was reported by Abu Dhabi radio. 'Arafat expressed his hope that Palestinian-Syrian meetings would succeed, adding that for its part the PLO has halted "Media Campaigns." In a related development, PLO Political Department head Faruq Qaddumi announced that the Syrian stance toward the PLO "has improved compared to what it was previously." In an interview with *Al-'ARAB* reported by Kuna, Qaddumi said "the way is being paved" toward good PLO-Syrian relations.

Opec Affairs

The 13 OPEC countries meeting in Geneva have thus far reached no agreement on oil production cuts, OPEC Conference President Arturo Hernandez Griañti said in remarks reported by AFP. Hernandez admitted that the meeting has been "very difficult" but said the OPEC countries are willing to continue their discussions until a "solution" is reached, AFP added. The News agency earlier reported that Iraq has rejected its previously allotted production quota and noted that the Saudi oil minister has reaffirmed that the Kingdom is no longer prepared to adjust its output according to swings in demand for OPEC oil. In Tehran, Iranian President 'Ali Khamene'i told the visiting Syrian foreign minister that Opec will "act decisively" to reject oil prices "imposed" by its "enemies."

Sudan-Ethiopia

The delegations of Sudan's National Alliance for National Salvation and the Sudanese People's Liberation Army (SPLA) held their opening meeting in Addis Ababa 20 March, the clandestine SPLA radio reported, adding that SPLA commander in Chief John Garang attended the opening ceremony. SUNA later reported that the "situation deteriorated" when the National Alliance delegation unanimously opposed the presence of Mansur Khalid, a minister under former President Ja'far Numayri, as a delegation member for the SPLA side.

In Khartoum, the deputy commander in chief of the Sudanese Armed Forces said that Sudan has filed several complaints to Ethiopia through diplomatic channels over Ethiopian planes' violation of Sudanese airspace 18 March and he claimed that the planes were carrying supplies to SPLA forces, SUNA reported.

Pakistan-DRA

Pakistan lodged a "strong protest" with the DRA charge d'affaires in Pakistan over Afghan air attacks on a border post and refugee camp in Khurram Agency which killed 6 people and injured 22 others 16 and 18 March, Karachi radio reported.

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Economic Commission Protocol Signed With USSR*LD210752 Kabul BAKHTAR in Pashto 1130 GMT 20 Mar 86*

[Text] Ka. 11, 20 Mar (BAKHTAR) — A protocol on working visits between the Afghan and Soviet sectors of the DRA-USSR permanent Economic Cooperation Commission was signed today at the DRA State Planning Committee.

Sarwar Mangal, DRA Council of Ministers vice chairman, and State Planning Committee head signed the protocol for the Afghan side and Khushyalov, assistant to the commission Soviet sector [as received] for [the Soviet side].

Both sides expressed full satisfaction with the progress of work in joint USSR-DRA cooperation projects, and in view of that positive assessment, and the decisions and resolutions emanating from the Afghan-Soviet Permanent Economic Cooperation Commission's fifth session, once again issued instructions on accelerating the tasks of both sides' enterprises for strengthening and consolidating the material and immaterial pillars of the glorious April Revolution.

A commission spokesman said that on the basis of the great Soviet country's material and technical assistance, 65 development projects in the fields of industry, transport, mines, energy, agriculture, and irrigation, supply of foodstuffs, public health, and other social services will be promoted which, as a consequence of such project's formidable gains, will accelerate the processes of national economic development and remedy economic backwardness with every passing day.

The USSR's share in assistance for such projects in the current year in comparison with total foreign assistance equals 70 percent.

During the year beginning 21 March 1985, the construction work of major projects such as the Kamaz major repair workshop in Kabul Jangalak factories; transport center for petroleum tankers in Daht-e Chemtala [Balkh Province]; Kamaz transport enterprises; the first stage of Kabul airport's expansion and reconstruction; polyclinic of the civil servants medical assurance; a laboratory complex for analyzing useful solid substances; [word indistinct] Mazar-e Sharif Silo; a transmission power line between Mazar-e Sharif and the Soviet border; and 840 residential apartments in the Microrayon [Kabul suburb], are being completed and utilized.

As a result of an improvement in work organization in the ministries, departments, and in Afghan-Soviet enterprises, the foundation has been prepared for a further attraction of Soviet assistance which is already 5 percent above the plan.

On the eve of the new year, the permanent commission has conducted friendly talks and an understanding has been reached to implement measures for the convocation of a sixth session whereby the share of Soviet assistance for development projects will rise to 80 percent of total foreign assistance.

The development of the petroleum and gas industries, electric power energy, supply of foodstuffs, expansion and renovation of

irrigation systems, as well as the provision of facilities for the social services, are at the center of that assistance.

DRA Issues Decree on Nonpayment of Land Taxes*LD202250 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 20 Mar 86*

[Text] The decree of the DRA Revolutionary Council Presidium: dated 30/12/1364 [20 March 1986] concerning the dropping of fines on taxes against peasants and farmers:

The DRA Revolutionary Council Presidium, in order to raise the standard of living and welfare of peasants, in consideration of the great role played by the peasants in the development of the country's national economy, approves that:

Article 1: The fines emanating from the nonpayment on time of land taxes, which have been owed by the peasants and farmers of the country between the years 1360 [1981-1982] and the end of 1364 [ended on 20 March 1986] and which amount to more than 2,564.8 million afghani, are dropped in the following manner: Those peasants and farmers, who are in debt due to taxes on land between the years 1360 [1981-1982] and the end of 1364 [ended 20 March 1986] will be exempted from paying fines provided they pay the main amount due between 1365 [begins 21 March 1986] until 1366 [21 March 1987] in installments. Their fines will be dropped in proportion to the payment of the main amount of land tax owed by them.

Article 2: The local organs of the state power and administration should take measures towards providing conditions for the complete implementation of Article 1 of this decree.

Article 3: Broad and effective publicity should be launched by the mass media in explaining the aims of this decree.

Article 4: This decree is enforced as from the date of its approval and should be published in the official gazette.

[Signed] Babrak Karmal, president of the DRA Revolutionary Council Presidium

Oslo Paper Interviews Afghan Guerrilla Leader*PM131643 Oslo ARBEIDERBLADET in Norwegian 11 Mar 86 p 16*

[Interview with Afghan guerrilla leader Ahmad Shah Masud by Borje Almqvist; date, place not given]

[Text] "We try to do our best to help those who have become poor. Because our resources have diminished and are limited and are not sufficient for both the front and for civilians. We have not been able to help the population as we ought to have done," the legendary guerrilla leader Ahmad Shah Masud told me in an interview in the Panjsher Valley in Afghanistan.

Masud has been called Afghanistan's Tito, the most influential and admired of the liberation movement's leaders inside

Afghanistan and a man whom many people believe will be able to unite the resistance movement against the Soviet Union.

Ahmad Shah Masud walked in through the door with quick steps. Everyone rose to show their respect. It is a well loved and respected 31-year-old who leads the liberation movement in northern Afghanistan.

Masud's arrival at the house was announced only 10 minutes before he walked in through the door. No one knows in advance when the "the leader" or "the man" as he is called by the population is on the move. Masud is high on the KGB's and the Afghan KHAD secret police's death list. In the past he has lived through attempts on his life and has escaped by the skin of his teeth.

Once Masud has sat down and all in the room have taken their places along the walls Masud begins to talk to those present. He asks questions, makes jokes, and treats high and low as equals.

It is a relaxed gathering around the leader who is without the condescensions common among the traditional leadership in this part of the world. But Masud is no traditional leader.

Masud was first elected leader of the Panjsher Valley because he had shown himself to be a brave fighter and clever strategist in the struggle against the Soviet aggressor. Since then his influence has grown. Today he is commander in chief of Jamiyat-e Islami in 7 of Afghanistan's 28 provinces.

Last summer he showed proof of his courage and initiative. He and a group of guerrilla soldiers were suddenly encircled one morning in a valley by Soviet elite commandos. The guerrillas did not think it was possible to escape. Masud took up his automatic carbine and led a successful counterattack and broke through the encirclement.

Prior to my personal contacts with him and my visit to the Panjsher Valley I was very suspicious of Masud — a popular mass media figure. Everyone had been looking for a hero, a man who could be a future leader of the country and they had found this man in Masud.

After meeting him on several occasions over a week and talking to him, interviewing him, and answering Masud's questions on international topics to do with Afghanistan — what happened at the youth festival in Moscow and what the Swedes and their government think about the invasion of Afghanistan — my suspicions have vanished.

Perhaps I have met a hero — a man able to unite the resistance to the Soviet Army of invasion. At any rate I have met a very intelligent and quick-thinking guerrilla leader, one who gave the impression of being the most competent among all the leaders I have met from all parts of Afghanistan.

Ahmad Shah Masud (Shah is an honorary title the people have given him) is very young by Afghan standards. He is a modern guerrilla warfare strategist. He plans operations and strategy long in advance. Nothing is left to chance. For several years

Masud and his young aides have also taken on the civilian population's welfare as well as civilian and military questions.

During the interview which took place a few days after our first meeting Masud was as usual a little restless. He pushed his hat back and forth on his head. It was often so far back on his head that it was a wonder it stayed on.

His replies came rapidly. When he was not satisfied with the replies, he asked to be allowed to go over them again, so that they would be exhaustive.

"The Panjsher Valley is divided into 22 'karargas' (guerrilla bases). Each 'kararga' is a base for military activities and for political and civilian rule. Each 'kararga' has mujahidin who are responsible for the war, and young boys join the mujahidin voluntarily," Masud told me.

On the military side the bases in the mujahidin are divided up for various special tasks. The motto is "the right man in the right job."

"They are divided into 'montaqawi' (local sections) and 'zarbati' (attack groups). The members of attacks groups are young men chosen for groups each comprising 30 men."

As well as being divided in this way people are included in smaller guerrilla groups. These are bombing groups, units for heavier arms such as anti-aircraft guns, mortars, and light artillery, and groups for communications and contacts with other groups in the valley.

"We also have another type of mujahidin group called 'motahareq' — mobile groups. Brave and experienced mujahidin are chosen from all 'karargas' for these groups. We have a supreme military commander for all these groups.

"In each base we have someone responsible for finance and someone responsible for the military side of things. They are under the control of the 'kararga' commandant.

"We only use Islamic law. We practice Islam in all our activities and behavior. We use the sharia — Islamic law — in all our work and in tackling all problems." For Masud and his guerrillas Islam is of great importance in their struggle.

"Each movement and each revolution has goals and intentions which the people follow. They fight and struggle toward this objective. Our goal is the practice of Islam over the whole of Afghanistan."

Masud makes no attempt to hide the fact that this objective has demanded sacrifices on the part of the civilian population. On the contrary:

"Because of constant attacks and bombing by the Russians, people have had to seek refuge elsewhere. Fortunately those who have left have remained in Afghanistan. Only a few have emigrated to Pakistan. Some live in the Panjsher Valley, and the majority live elsewhere in Afghanistan."

The situation is precarious for the civilian population.

"As you can see, most houses and regions in the Panjsher Valley have been destroyed by repeated Soviet attacks and the many years of fighting. People have been unable to cultivate their land, and first and foremost they need help to get food. Then we need aid for doctors, and medicines."

In military terms the situation is different.

"We have almost enough handguns. Thanks to a few years of almost continual fighting against the Russians in Afghanistan, we have captured quite a large number of weapons and enough ammunition from the enemy. The problem is heavy weaponry and ammunition for it — that is something we have never had enough of," Masud said.

Masud did not want to say exactly how many weapons have been captured and how many come from Pakistan. But he makes no secret of where the guerrillas get money for food and other nonmilitary equipment.

"First and foremost we get our stores in the form of booty. In the Salang region (a mountainous area north of Kabul through which all Soviet convoys with supplies for the capital must pass) we capture food such as wheat, oil, sugar, and so on, and we send this to the front."

This amounts to one-third of what we get in. A further third is income from taxes from the lapis lazuli and emerald mines.

"We also received 5 percent of the salaries of state officials. The section of the population from Panjsher living in Kabul also helps us, just like the businessmen throughout the country when they are able to. The aid we receive from Pakistan and from foreign organizations is much too small to cover all our outgoings."

The aid from Pakistan is the economic support which the Panjsher front's party, Jami'et-e Eslami, sends to Panjsher. It covers a mere 4.5 percent of what it costs to keep the guerrillas in food and clothing.

There is still fighting between different resistance groups here and there, but not as often as before between Jamiyat-e Eslami and the rival Hezb-e Eslami. Instead, there is conflict within Hezb-e Eslami.

Within the Panjsher area there is great unity. Important questions are thoroughly discussed democratically before decisions are made.

Oppositionist Responds to APN Article

PM201400 [Editorial Report] Paris *LE FIGARO MAGAZINE* in French 15-21 March 1986 carries on pages 64 to 72 a 3,000-word APN article on Afghanistan with interpolated comments made by Major Amin Wardak of the National Islamic Front of Afghanistan while on a visit to France. The text of the APN article and Wardak's comments is as follows:

"The Soviet Text:

"Anybody who has ever seen Afghanistan cannot be indifferent to the charm of its mountains, its valleys with their isolated villages, its breathtaking canyons, and its pure air. Even the desert areas in the southwest are attractive, with their soft pastel colors and their green village oases surrounded by fields under cultivation. A courageous, industrious, and proud people live in this beautiful country with a turbulent history.

"Before the April 1978 Revolution, Afghanistan was a feudal country which lived in a different age, with illiteracy and disease. It had the lowest standard of living in the world, high infant mortality, and religious and ethnic struggles. Per capita income was less than \$150 per year. According to statistical information in Afghanistan published in Kabul in December 1979, Afghanistan had 15 million inhabitants and 3,728 schools giving a general education, including 273 for girls. There was 1 doctor for every 16,000 people and 1 hospital bed for every 4,980 people.

"The Afghan Reply:

"Afghanistan, my country, in fact has a civilization which is more than 5,000 years old and the legendary welcome of its inhabitants seduced visitors who stayed there, from Alexander the Great to Joseph Kessel.

"The country was certainly one of the poorest in the world, but Sunni Islam, practiced in a serene way by its inhabitants, was not seen as a constraint and it set the pace for the essentially peasant life of some 16 million Afghans.

"In recent decades my country gradually opened up to the world without any upheaval. Health care was being organized. Education was spreading rapidly. For instance, in 20 years between 1951 and 1972 the number of schools in Afghanistan increased tenfold, increasing from 378 to 3,972. They included the French lycee in Kabul which I attended. It is now closed. The communist coup and then the Soviet invasion of my country abruptly stopped this process. All the cooperation programs launched with many European countries stopped. The development which Afghanistan was undertaking was replaced by bombings, famine, exile, and war.

"The Soviet Text:

"Since April 1978, in accordance with the treaties of aid and good-neighborly relations, the USSR has given large amounts of aid to Afghanistan since the establishment of a pro-Soviet government. A network of roads, tunnels, irrigation structures, and industrial enterprises forms an incomplete list of the aid supplied by the USSR. The Western nations and the United States were fully informed of the very difficult conditions Afghanistan was experiencing. Nonetheless, at that time the U.S. president, Congress, and the leaders of Western Europe did not try to help Afghanistan in any way. Proof of that can be found in a report from the U.S. ambassador to Afghanistan before the revolution. In his telegram to the secretary of state on 30 January 1978, Ambassador Eliot sent his analysis of the situation in 1977 and commented: 'The Soviets are avoiding giving the impression of interfering in external Afghan affairs and are maintaining their

position as the main supplier of aid (more than \$1 billion over the past 25 years as opposed to less than \$500 million from the United States).'

"Ambassador Eliot could not have imagined his report being published. In November 1979, when the U.S. Embassy was held hostage in Iran, the correspondence between the secretary of state's office and the embassies was published.

"The Afghan Reply:

"With hindsight it is easy to see that the Soviets' whole cooperation program in Afghanistan was designed to prepare for the invasion on 27 December 1979. They trained military and political administrators, infiltrated the army, and opened up roads and tunnels facilitating troop movements between the Soviet Union and Kabul (the road between Kabul and Mazar-e Sharif, including the construction of the Salang tunnel, was opened by the Soviets and forms the main supply route for the Soviet troops). In addition, Soviet aid was not free. In exchange for their aid they obtained a monopoly of Afghan gas supplies — the country's main resource — at a ridiculously low price....

"On the other hand, cooperation with the European countries and the United Nations was conducted in a climate of friendship and no Afghan had reason to complain about those aid workers, who had no desire to annex our country.

"The Soviet Text:

"The April Revolution radically changed the situation in Afghanistan. It generated unprecedented political and social activity in that country. Every revolution produces a counterrevolution, and Afghanistan was no exception to the rule. These crafty and unscrupulous counterrevolutionaries hated innovation and progress and were prepared to do anything: to murder and perpetrate attacks.... Before the April Revolution they were not interested in Afghanistan and its population. But after the revolution they became Islam's supporters and the counterrevolutionaries' allies.

"Despite the resistance of the counterrevolutionaries aided by foreign countries, the Afghan revolution progressed. What is the situation in Afghanistan? What plans does the government have for the country? The most important point in recent years was the November declaration made by the DRA Revolutionary Council aimed at cooperation among the Afghan political forces to normalize the situation. These decisions show the Afghan leaders' political realism and their readiness to make some compromises.

"Recently an election campaign took place in Afghanistan to elect the members of local governments and the Council of Elders. The Council of Elders is a traditional form of democracy for local government.

"Agrarian reform is under way. The law on agrarian reform was one of the first to be passed by the government after the April Revolution. Landless peasants and those who were cultivating small plots received land from the government and land confiscated from big landowners. They also received water, seed, and

equipment. Cooperatives were set up. This reform was not improvised. At the end of 1985 ownership deeds were distributed to 311 families in the (Dowtalabad Andhoi) and Faryab Districts; to 120 families in the (Anjil) District; and to 110 families in Takhar Province. In all, 320,000 families received 1.7 million jeribs of land (1 jerib equals 0.42 hectare).

"The Afghan Reply:

"What in Marxist terms Soviet journalists call the 'April 1978 Revolution' was in fact merely a military coup carried out by a tiny minority of intellectuals with Moscow's blessing. To every military coup, every dictatorship, and every military invasion there is a corresponding peoples' reaction and a patriotic resistance. My people reacted in a healthy way. The fact that the Soviets describe our mujahidin as counterrevolutionary bandits is the result of stereotyped and hackneyed language and also of crude propaganda. During the dark years which your country experienced between 1940 and 1944 I believe the German occupier behaved in an identical way toward your resistance fighters!

"There are indeed bandits in Afghanistan. They are the few thousand communists collaborating in a servile way with the Soviet occupier. They are shut in their offices, surrounded and protected by the Red Army forces, cut off from their country's real situation, and responsible for the saddest hours of my people's history. The puppet regime in Kabul has no popular support. It is artificially maintained by the Soviet occupiers and if the latter were to withdraw it would only remain in power for a few hours.

"Since the Soviet invasion war is present throughout the country, it goes without saying that all the projects discussed by the Kabul and Moscow press are pure fiction and only exist on paper.

"In the agrarian sphere the real situation is that our crops, our harvests, and our irrigation canals are systematically destroyed by Soviet air raids. My compatriots, deprived of the basic means of subsistence and driven to desperation by hunger, are forced into exile, and Afghanistan's villages are being deserted. These are the 'benefits of the April Revolution' for the Afghans.

"The Soviet Text:

"The Afghan Government attaches great importance to public education. In Afghanistan today 15 dailies, 21 weeklies, and 40 magazines are published. The Education Ministry itself has published 907,330 books on 47 general education subjects.

"In 1981 a department for young workers was set up at Kabul University. For the first time in Afghanistan's history the children of workers and young workers were able to benefit from higher education. A technical secondary school is also operating. It provides graduates for the young republic's industry. Kabul radio broadcasts programs in several local languages. Radio stations have been opened in all provinces.

"Great attention is being paid to religion. Everybody knows that the counterrevolutionary forces have used pseudo-Islamic slogans which have little to do with the traditional Islam practiced in Afghanistan. The Afghan Government admits that

Afghanistan is a Muslim country in the sense that a large majority of the population practices this religion and that the rites of the country are steeped in it. In addition, the government is convinced that the revolution's goals do not conflict with Islam's principles of justice and equality. The government is helping to repair and build mosques. It is taking an interest in the treatment of mullahs and in the mullahs in the army.

"The Afghan Army developed in the struggle against the counterrevolution. The number of PDPA members in the army is growing. Some 62 percent of its members are in the army. The army's structure and its efficiency and the training of soldiers have been improved. This is the situation in the young Afghan republic. This situation requires even more effort and vigilance from the country's patriotic and national forces.

"The Afghan Reply:

"With regard to teaching and education the picture is the same. The secondary schools in the big cities have been closed. The rural schools have been destroyed by bombs dropped from Soviet Migs. Thousands of children have been deported to the Soviet Union. This is the 'educational progress' of which the Soviets and their Kabul henchmen boast. In the health care sphere the hospitals set up by the resistance are one of the Red Air Force's preferred targets. The international Red Cross is not allowed to operate in Afghanistan. The only support we have is that given by French associations which, despite the risks run by the doctors and nurses, have no hesitation in coming to cure our sick and care for our wounded.

"In Afghanistan we are deeply attached to our religion. The mullahs Kabul is using for its propaganda are pseudo-clerics paid for acting a part. On the other hand, one of the first measures taken by the Afghan Communist Government was to try and remove green, Islam's color, from the Afghan national flag. Since the Soviet invasion, not a day has passed without our mosques being profaned by bombs, our Koran being sullied, or our cemeteries being wrecked. In Wardak Province the Soviets launched an offensive in October 1985. Some 250 Afghans — men women, and children — were killed and 5 mosques were destroyed. A mullah's library was burned. An old man was beaten to death by Soviet commandos. Every minute of every day Afghanistan is the proving ground for the most terrifying weapons. Innocent victims succumb to mines, bombs, missiles, and torture. One typical example of atrocities is the case of 14-year-old Muhammad Nabi from Wardak Province, who was abducted by the Soviets and first held for ransom, then tortured to death by being deprived of water, mutilated by kicking and stabbing with a bayonet, garroted, and executed with a Kalashnikov.

"These are the 'benefits' and 'progress' which the Soviet occupiers are inflicting on my people! The Afghan resistance is waging a just fight for our homeland to restore freedom. It is not just our fight. It concerns all peace-loving men in the world. Today Afghanistan is in darkness; but we know that the sun will rise on our liberated country tomorrow."

The APN article and Afghan comments are accompanied by six photographs, each with a Soviet caption and a comment provided by Amin Wardak. The first photograph shows a burning convoy

of trucks on a mountain road with a tank and seven men in military uniform armed with guns. The Soviet caption reads: "Trucks are a favorite target for the counterrevolutionaries from abroad: they burn the trucks and destroy their load." The Afghan caption reads: "The north road linking Kabul with the Soviet Union is the Soviet Army's supply route. This is the road taken by supply convoys, particularly those carrying fuel for the Soviet tanks and aircraft. No convoy from the USSR is safe from attack by the mujahidin."

The second photograph shows a damaged truck and a tank on a road with six armed men in military uniforms taking aim. The Soviet caption reads: "Gangs of terrorists from abroad try to disorganize the economy. Trucks are their favorite target. They mine the roads and launch grenade attacks. The Soviet troops help the Afghan Army to protect these roads. They escort convoys and help the army in case of attack." The Afghan caption reads: "The second photograph shows a damaged truck and a tank on a road with six armed men in military uniform taking aim.

The Soviet caption reads: "Gangs of terrorists from abroad try to disorganize the economy. Trucks are their favorite target. They mine the roads and launch grenade attacks. The Soviet troops help the Afghan Army to protect these roads. They escort convoys and help the army in case of attack." The Afghan caption reads: "The Soviet occupation Army tries to hold the roads. Despite a vast disproportion in resources, the Afghan resistance succeeds in dealing the Red Army harsh blows."

The third photograph shows armed men, some in military uniform, escorting five men with their hands tied behind their backs. The Soviet caption reads: "A defense detachment comprising local civilians has captured saboteurs from the so-called Islamic Party of Afghanistan. The population helps the army and militia to capture bandits from abroad." The Afghan caption reads: "This is misinformation. This photograph is taken from a Soviet movie showing a training session for communist militants and simulating the arrest of Afghan resistance fighters. The arrested 'saboteurs' are in fact militiamen posing for the camera!"

The fourth photograph shows three men in military uniform, one of whom has a star on his helmet and is kneeling down examining a pipeline, with a truck and an armored vehicle in the background. The Soviet caption reads: "Trucks are a favorite target for the counterrevolutionaries from abroad, they burn the trucks and destroy their load." [repetition of caption to first photograph presumably in error] The Afghan caption reads: "The Red Army is sowing terror in Afghanistan with its bombs, mines, and devastating offensives. The only 'foreigners' fighting in Afghanistan wear uniforms decorated with the red star: They are the Soviets." The fifth photograph is a long shot of a group of people sitting in lines on the ground facing a red booth behind which more people are seated. Red banners with inscriptions are on display. The Soviet caption reads: "Democratic elections have been held at local level for the first time in the country's history. Without exception, all citizens took part. The lack of a fixed abode is an important factor in this country, in which there are more than 3.5 million nomads." The Afghan caption reads: "To give itself the veneer of democracy, the Afghan communist

party holds elections exclusively for its own members; nobody votes in Afghanistan."

The sixth photograph shows a convoy of trucks on a road between rocky, snow-capped mountains. The Soviet caption reads: "Major roads are the only transport routes. Loads are transported in big trucks belonging to the AFSOIR, a Soviet-Afghan company set up in the sixties. Some 1,600-km of these roads have been constructed with Soviet help, including the 3km-long Salang tunnel." The Afghan caption reads: "The only public works carried out by the Soviets are designed to facilitate the invasion of Afghanistan: the USSR-Kabul road, the Salang tunnel (situated on that road), the Pagram military airport to the north of the Afghan capital, and so forth."

Ershad Briefs Armed Forces Chief on Elections*BK191547 Dhaka Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 19 Mar 86*

[Text] President Ershad addressed the senior officers of the Armed Forces in Dhaka today. He apprised them of the efforts made by him to bring the opposition political parties to elections. The deputy chief martial law administrators, Rear Admiral Sultan Ahmed and Air Vice Marshal Sultan Mahmud, were also present.

Pledges Elections on Schedule*BK201618 Dhaka Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 20 Mar 86*

[Text] President Hussain Mohammad Ershad has firmly reiterated that parliamentary elections will be held on schedule. Addressing a huge public meeting at (Khuliachar) in Kishoreganj today, he said we are determined to hold the elections and we shall overcome whatever obstacles are there in our way in holding the elections. The president said he will not fail in discharging his responsibility to the nation and fulfilling his pledge to build a sound and stable democratic political system in the country. Detailing his efforts in this regard, President Ershad said he postponed election dates thrice in the past only with the hope that good sense will prevail upon the major political parties to join the polls. But it appears from the behavior of these political parties that they do not believe in democratic accommodation and understanding. They want to impose their will on the people in the name of democracy.

The president said the political parties should seek the verdict of the electorate and on getting their opinion in their favor they should start working to ameliorate the condition of the people.

President Ershad went to (Khuliachar) on an unscheduled visit to this upzila [subdivision] headquarters.

Opposition Leaders Make Joint Call for Poll Boycott*HK180926 Hong Kong AFP in English
0837 GMT 18 Mar 86*

[Text] Dhaka, March 18 (AFP) — The leaders of Bangladesh's two major opposition alliances have met for the first time in years, and called jointly for public resistance to parliamentary polls set for April 26.

The alliances, representing 15 and seven parties, issued the call in a joint statement late Monday, saying the polls were "designed to legalise the martial law government" of Lieutenant General Hussain Mohammad Ershad.

"Those who will try to contest the polls will be considered as traitors to the nation and will be resisted," they said.

The statement followed a series of joint meetings of the top leaders of the alliances, the largest led by Sheikh Hasina of the Awami League and the other by Begum Khaleda Zia, in the past few days.

The meetings were their first in the past few years, as the groups have waged separate fights against the government.

Lt Gen Ershad, who took over in a bloodless coup in 1982 and named himself president the next year, declared that he would go ahead with plans for the polls.

National Polls have been postponed thrice in the past three years in the face of boycott threats from the opposition, who demand the withdrawal of martial law before any election.

Opposition Demonstrates Against Elections*HK201446 Hong Kong AFP in English
1424 GMT 20 Mar 86*

[Text] Dhaka, March 20 (AFP) — Thousands of opposition supporters shouting anti-government slogans demonstrated here Thursday as the ruling military regime went ahead with preparations for parliamentary elections slated for next month.

The country's two major opposition alliances, representing 15 and seven parties, organized the demonstration in the build-up to a general strike on Saturday called to protest the planned April 26 polls.

Witnesses said the opposition groups mobilised as many as 30,000 demonstrators, while organisers put the crowd at more than 50,000.

Supporters of the two alliances paraded in a joint procession through the main streets of the capital urging people to boycott next month's polls and shouting anti-government slogans.

The mainstream opposition of the two alliances along with the fundamentalist Jamaat-E-Islami Party have called for a nationwide dawn-to-dusk strike on Saturday, which was to have been the deadline for filing election nominations.

However, the Election Commission amended the election schedule Thursday to allow candidates to file nomination papers until March 25.

Meanwhile, President Hussain Mohammad Ershad reiterated Thursday that parliamentary elections would be held on schedule, "fulfilling my pledge to the nation for establishing democracy."

He told a public meeting in the northern town of Kishoreganj that he would proceed with election plans, the BSS NEWS AGENCY reported.

National polls have been postponed three times in the past three years in the face of boycott threats from the opposition, which demands that martial law be withdrawn and power be handed over to a caretaker government to ensure fair elections.

Lieutenant General Ershad Wednesday met with senior army officers to discuss "the overall political situation obtaining in the country" against the backdrop of the opposition to the planned election, press reports said.

A top aide at the presidential palace said the president Thursday held a meeting with senior civil servants to discuss the situation and also called an emergency meeting of the cabinet.

Opposition Alliance Groups Hold Joint Meeting
BK201205 Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER
 in English 18 Mar 86 p 1,8

[Excerpt] Both the 15-party alliance and seven-party alliance in their first ever joint meeting on Monday decided to continue the movement for realisation of the five point demand jointly and appealed to the countrymen to make the programme already announced from March 20 to 22 a success.

The two alliances in a joint statement said that the government has ignored the demands for creating a free and congenial atmosphere holding election on the basis of 5 [as published] five-point demand. On the other hand it has created a situation so that the Opposition parties cannot participate in the election. The statement said that it is the duty of all not to participate in the election to legalise the military government.

The joint statement however, hoped that there is still time and good sense will prevail on the Government. It called upon the people to resist unitedly any attempt by the Government to suppress the popular movement. The joint meeting of the two alliances held at the Jbikatla residence of NAP [National Awami Party] leader Mr Suranjit Sen Gupta was presided over by Pir Habibur Rahman.

The meeting which was expected for the last few days brought an end to the separate identical programmes of the movement done by the alliances for the last three years and seven months. First such identical programme of the alliances was the observance of hartal [strike] on November 1 1983. It may be recalled that the 15-party alliance was formed on January 17 in 1983 and the seven-party alliance came into being in the middle of the same year. A five-point programme was launched on September 6 of 1983 Relaxing restriction on political activities by the Government on March 24 1982, indoor politics was allowed from September 1 in 1983.

Leaders of the alliances Begum Khaleda Zia and Sheikh Hasina did not attend the joint meeting of the alliances on Monday. However, they are likely to join the next meeting of the alliances on March 22. The venue of the meeting will be decided later on. [passage omitted containing names of people who attended the meeting]

Hasina Urges Ershad To Learn Lesson from Marcos
BK151522 Dhaka SANGBAD in Bengali 11 Mar 86 pp 1, 8

[Excerpt] Sheikh Hasina, president of the Bangladesh Awami League, said: "We do not want to acquire power through conspiracy, we want to acquire it by launching a movement in support of the election and then actually holding it. President

General Ershad does not want the political parties to take part in the elections, and so he is not creating conditions conducive for holding elections." She was delivering a speech yesterday as the chief guest at the national conference of the Bangladesh Chhatra [Students] League, Mannan group, in the Dhaka University grounds situated between the administrative building and the art faculty. She said that it requires the joint efforts of people from all walks of life to create a process of transferring power to the people through elections.

Directing her address to President General Ershad she said: "Come and contest politics with politics; the days of ruling with the strength of arms are over. By expelling the gunmen from the university campus the patriotic students have proved that it is not possible to hold power anymore through strength of arms."

She said that the drama of capturing power with the strength of arms continued from 1975 and since then many students, youths, and workers have given their lives and blood for the cause of upholding democracy. They will continue their struggle and go on sacrificing until their rights are successfully established.

She said: "We want the end of military rule because no one can hope for political stability with its continuation, and without political stability there cannot be economic stability".

Sheikh Hasina said: Even after so many years of independence, its fruits have not reached the common people. The four basic principles of the nation enunciated by Bangabandhu [Sheikh Mujibur Rahman] have been abandoned. The denationalization is a deviation from the principles of independence. The soldiers of Bangabandhu will not allow these things to happen, and they will regain the fruits of independence at all cost.

She said that President Ershad has called the leader of opposition "Corazon." In fact, in this way he has indirectly admitted that he is the Marcos of Bangladesh. She asked President General Ershad to learn a lesson from history, otherwise his fate will be similar to that of Marcos.

Soviet Official Notes Decline in Trade Since 1981
BK170659 Dhaka BSS in English
 0630 GMT 17 Mar 86

[Text] Dhaka, March 17 (BSS) — The volume of trade turnover between Bangladesh and the Soviet Union during the last 14 years was on an average 50-60 million dollars.

This was stated by Mr A.M. Vardanian, head of the Soviet trade mission, at a news conference here yesterday.

He said the volume of turnover in 1972 was only 23 million dollars but it increased to 80 million dollars in 1981.

He, however, said that after 1981 there had been a decline in the trade.

Rajiv Gandhi Receives Sri Lankan High Commissioner
BK201111 Colombo International Service in English
 1030 GMT 20 Mar 86

[Text] High Commissioner Bernard Tilakaratna called on Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi in New Delhi yesterday and brought the increasing incidents of violence in the north and east and the resultant law and order problems to his notice. The Foreign Ministry said in Colombo that Mr Tilakaratna, who pointed out that there was a serious deterrent to any political solution to the ethnic problem, assured Mr Gandhi that Colombo was anxious to see an end to the violence costing civilian lives and destruction of property.

A news release said that Mr Tilakaratna had drawn the attention of the steps recently taken by the government to help create the necessary climate for a political solution.

Rao Relected General Secretary of CPI
BK181300 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT
 18 Mar 86

[Text] Mr C. Rajeshwar Rao has been unanimously reelected as the general secretary of the Communist Party of India. This announcement was made at the 13th congress of the party in Patna today.

Reportage on Violence, Police Response in Punjab

Police Crack Down on Militants
HK201438 Hong Kong AFP in English 1418 GMT 20 Mar 86

[Text] Amritsar, India, March 20 (AFP) — The authorities in the troubled northern Indian state of Punjab on Thursday began cracking down on Sikh militants to prevent them marching on the state legislature, police sources here said.

The sources said about 50 people had been arrested on the eve of a protest march called by the Sikh militants' United Akali Dal Party.

The United Akali Dal's acting secretary, Moham Singh Bagi, said the police had arrested a large number of his party's supporters in a pre-dawn swoop and that reports of more arrests were "pouring in."

The party chairman, Baba Joginder Singh, plans to head a march to the Punjab Legislative Assembly building in the state capital, Chandigarh, on Friday to press for the release of detained Sikhs.

Sikh militants want their Punjab homeland to become an independent Sikh state.

Meanwhile, the police said a group of unidentified men armed with sharp-edged weapons had halted a bus on the Batala-Amritsar highway and had attacked and wounded an unknown number of passengers. The wounded were taken to hospital.

Batala was the scene of recent clashes between the state's Sikh and Hindu religious communities, and the situation there remains tense.

Amritsar District Police Chief S.S. Virk told reporters that hundred of members of the pro-militant All-India Sikh Students' Federation had blocked the shipment of food and other goods to half a dozen towns in Punjab.

Militants also tried to force shopkeepers to close their establishments as part of a day of protest against the conduct of paramilitary forces called in to quell trouble in Batala.

Security Tightened
BK210210 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT
 21 Mar 86

[Text] The Chandigarh administration has made adequate security arrangements in view of today's call for gherao [blockade] of the Punjab Legislative Assembly by the Akali Dal led by Mr Joginder Singh. Prohibitory orders, including the ban on assembly of 5 or more persons, are already in force in areas around the Secretariat and the assembly. The Punjab police have also made some preventive arrests in this connection.

Meanwhile, the situation in the curfew-bound towns of Jullundur, Nakodar, Batala, and Muktsar continues to be under control. While the curfew in Jullundur and Nakodar has been extended till 1100 today, in Muktsar the relaxation of 2 hours is being from 1300 today. Indefinite curfew continues to be imposed in Batala.

Militant Sikhs Stage Protest
HK210614 Hong Kong AFP in English 0539 GMT
 21 Mar 86

[Excerpts] New Delhi, Mar 21 (AFP) — Three thousand Sikh militants entered the Punjab state capital of Chandigarh Friday to stage a protest demonstration there, PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) said.

PTI said militant leader Joginder Singh, who heads the United Akali Dal Party, had defied prohibitory orders and entered Chandigarh early Friday with 3,000 young supporters. The militants plan to block the state assembly to force the moderate-led government there to release Sikh prisoners, PTI said.

Police Thursday had arrested 200 militant Sikhs across the northern state in a bid to frustrate the protest.

Militants Blockade State Assembly
HK210728 Hong Kong AFP in English 0627 GMT 21 Mar 86

[Text] New Delhi, Mar 21 (AFP) — Some 10,000 Sikh militants blockaded the Punjab state assembly in Chandigarh Friday, forcing the house to adjourn as police fired tear gas and rubber bullets to disperse the mob, UNITED NEWS OF INDIA said.

The Sikhs were being led by Baba Joginder Singh, who heads the militant faction of the Sikh political party, the Akali Dal.

The Sikhs, armed with swords, and shouting slogans calling for a Sikh homeland, managed to get near the state assembly building, breaking four police barricades, UNI said quoting police sources.

Officials in Chandigarh were not available for comment by telephone from here.

The blockade was aimed at forcing the moderate-led government to free Sikh prisoners, according to an earlier announcement.

2 Killed in Police Firing

BK210849 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 21 Mar 86

[Excerpts] In Chandigarh, two persons are feared killed and about six injured today when police opened fire to control unruly agitators of the Akali Dal led by Mr Joginder Singh who wanted to gherao [blockade] the Punjab legislative assembly. According to an official spokesman, the agitators broke police cordons and when the use of teargas shells and cane charge failed to control the mob, the police had to open fire. He said while most of the agitators were chased away, about 500 of them managed to reach the Legislative Assembly compound where they sat in dharna [sit in].

The spokesman said over 12 men of the police and paramilitary forces were also injured in the brickbattling indulged in by the agitators.

The state assembly, which was in session, was adjourned by the speaker for some time.

AFP: Further on Violence

HK210848 Hong Kong AFP in English 0828 GMT 21 Mar 86

[By Dilip Ganguly]

[Text] New Delhi, March 21 (AFP) — PRESS TRUST OF INDIA said three people died in the firing. A PTI reporter saw two falling on the ground after being hit by police bullets. "Their bodies were lifted by the police and put into a waiting van", PTI said.

PTI said an unknown number of people were injured. Five of them were hospitalised with serious wounds.

Chandigarh officials were not available for comment by telephone from here, but city residents reached by telephone said there was "huge tension" there.

"The entire road leading to the state assembly was littered with brickbats, shoes, and smashed window panes of buses... blood was also splattered all over the area", PTI said.

Earlier the group led by Baba Joginder Singh, who heads the militant faction of the Sikh political party the Akali Dal, broke four police barricades and managed to reach the state assembly building.

The assembly was adjourned and all entry gates sealed, UNI said. Paramilitary troops stationed inside the assembly boundary wall were out on alert as the Sikhs approached the building.

The police firing triggered a Sikh retreat, but some 300 of the militants led by Baba Joginder Singh, squatted on the road just outside the assembly building, PTI said.

Observers said Friday's clash was the most serious one since the storming of Sikhism's holiest shrine — the Golden Temple — in Amritsar in June 1984 by [the] Indian Army.

Former Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi ordered her troops into the shrine to dislodge Sikh militants entrenched there. Some 650 people, mostly Sikhs were killed in the operation. Since then there have been minor clashes, but observers said Friday's clash has proved that the militants were still a force to be reckoned with in Punjab.

Since earlier this week, the state, which borders with Pakistan, has seen a spurt in killings linked to a Sikh autonomy campaign, observers said. At least 12 people have died in violence in the state this week, domestic news agencies reported.

Bomb Blast Rocks House of Former Finance Minister

BK210301 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 21 Mar 86

[Text] An explosion rocked the house of Mr Pranab Mukherjee, the former union finance minister, in South Delhi last evening. According to the police, no one was injured in the blast which slightly damaged the house. The home minister, Mr Narasimha Rao, the lieutenant governor, [name indistinct] and several senior police officials rushed to the scene.

Delhi Domestic on Pakistan's Zia To Stay in Office

BK200315 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 20 Mar 86

[Text] In Pakistan, Pakistan President General Ziaul Haq has said that he will continue to stay in office until 1990. In an interview in the Pakistan daily JUNG, General Zia said that he was elected for a 5-year term in a national referendum in December 1984. He also justified retaining the post of chief of army staff. He denied having any differences with the prime minister, Mr Mohammad Khan Junejo.

Scientific Cooperation Program With CSSR Finalized

BK200329 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 20 Mar 86

[Text] India and Czechoslovakia have identified more areas of cooperation in the scientific field between the two countries. A

delegation of the Czechoslovakia Academy of Sciences and the Indian Council of Scientific and Industrial Research have finalized a program to this effect for the period 1986-88. A number of new areas finalized include biochemical mechanism, radio and atmospheric physics, and scientific and biomedical instrumentation.

AFP: Police Break International Drug Syndicate

HK201206 Hong Kong AFP in English 1153 GMT 20 Mar 86

[Text] New Delhi, March 20 (AFP) — Police here Thursday busted an international drug syndicate and arrested a Sikh and are investigating for connections to the separatist campaign in Punjab, police said.

One hundred police raided a farmhouse near here and seized 553 kilograms (1,216 pounds) of hashish after a tip that an India-based narcotics syndicate with links in Europe was operating from there, Southern District Police Chief Maxwell Perreira said.

He identified the Sikh as Pratap Singh, 41, who ran a restaurant that was closed by police here two years ago for unexplained reasons. He later went to Nepal, and interrogation Thursday showed the hashish was coming from Nepal, Mr Perreira told reporters.

Mr Singh admitted he was trading in narcotics, Mr Perreira said.

Indian police have notified Interpol with the addresses of people in Amsterdam and other European cities where the syndicate had links, he said, not identifying the other cities.

He said this was the largest drug seizure in northern India this year, and police were investigating whether Mr Singh's activities were related to the separatist movement in Punjab state.

Top police sources said police believe that the militants had lately started collecting funds through drug smuggling. "It was just a hunch.... But several factors now lead us to believe that the hunch is coming true," one source said.

President Ziaul Haq Grants UK Television Interview
 LD201640 London ITV Television Network in English
 1330 GMT 16 March 86

[Interview with Pakistani President Ziaul Haq on "Face the Press" program by moderator Gillian Reynolds of the *DAILY TELEGRAPH*, John Elliot of the *FINANCIAL TIMES*, and Eric Silver of *THE GUARDIAN* in the Rawalpindi studios of the Pakistani television corporation — recorded]

[Excerpts] [Reynolds] President Zia, with the lifting of martial law, how fully democratic is Pakistan today?

[Ziaul Haq] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Yes, Miss Reynolds, Pakistan is as democratic today as any developing democratic country. I do not say that democracy and development go hand in hand, but there are problems in developing countries and Pakistan has had, as you will likely introduce, three interruptions in the democratic process. But I think we are back on the rail, and I find that the new government is progressing well and hence (?time shall lie) in not too far a distance, Pakistan will be amongst the top countries who profess to be democratic.

[Elliot] You have moved from being the military dictator of Pakistan to being president of the country; but you are not a directly-elected president because you interpreted a referendum on Islamization, about a year ago after it had taken place, as a vote for you to stay in power for another 5 years. So, you're not an elected president as such. Do you agree?

[Ziaul Haq] No. I think I am as democratically elected as any democratic president could be. In our Constitution, our president is supposed to be indirectly elected, and I think the next president will be. But, in order to start the process of democratization, we have to start in some form and the philosophy that evolved was that someone should be the focal point, and around him should evolve the democratic process; and through him should be, or he should be the center of stability. I happen to be that one. And therefore I first had to establish my own credentials, and that credential was worked out in the manner of a referendum indirectly to post confidence in me, to start the process, and that's how I am the president.

[Elliot] So the vote was for Islamization, rather than for you personally?

[Ziaul Haq] No. There are two questions: That if you say yes, yes, it would mean that you are giving me the vote of confidence to continue for next 5 years as president of Pakistan, as elected president of Pakistan. Yes.

[Silver] Another essential element of democratic government is the free play of political parties. Your present parliament, and through it your present government, were elected in nonparty elections just about 1 year ago. Since then, since the lifting of martial law, we've had the old opposition political parties back in business. They're organizing, they're holding meetings; but they complain that they don't have a chance to go to the electorate, that you are saying they must wait until 1990, which is still 4 years away. Is that a legitimate demand of the political parties?

[Ziaul Haq] If, pardon my language if I use just some words to explain my point of view, if you literally shove something into somebody's throat, you can say yes. But if the people choose to have a form, or a manner, in a political style, then you can't blame it. We introduced a system of nonpartisan, nonparty elections, and then leaving it to the elected representative to choose the future of the country. This is the premise on which we started and I — not only me but all of us — we requested the politicians that for a change, give up your rigid stance, participate in this process. The aim is to bring the elected representatives; the aim is not to bring the political parties, because all political parties or all the countries that maybe... uh ...trying to introduce democratic processes may not be up to a particular level of competence where the political parties are concerned. And same was with us. And therefore...

[Reynolds, interrupting] But even if people stand as individuals, there are bound to be inevitable party groupings, informal groupings should we say, not party, to the left or to the right. Will it be possible to form such groupings of individuals?

[Ziaul Haq] Yes. I was just coming onto this. Before I said, so you must understand which we went through, we wanted to hold elections on a nonparty basis. The political parties, whom at that time, and even now I believe, did not have their roots in the people — did not, were not so much democratized themselves, and the same situation exists even today.

They demanded a boycott to our elections. But the result was, as I'm sure you must have noticed — I think Mr Elliott was here at the time of elections, I'm not sure whether you were or not — 63 percent of the electorate turned out for the national assembly elections. Sixty-seven percent of the electorate turned out for provincial elections. This shows how credible the call of the political parties was.

[Elliot] But now you're going to let political parties gradually come back, which is different from what you were saying 2 or 3 years ago; you were making speeches saying you did not believe that an Islamic state which Pakistan was — which you were building up Pakistan to be. You did not believe that in an Islamic state there was room for political parties.

[Ziaul Haq] Yes.

[Elliot] You even said to me in November that you hoped political parties would not come back into any sort of operation until very near the next election due in 1990. On those two issues you have moved quite a long way.

[Ziaul Haq] Yes, yes you're right. Before I come to this, just to quickly to answer to the question of Miss Reynolds, you said about the groupings: Having elected the representatives on a nonparty system, the new parliament chose themselves to behave in two groups. The parliamentary group of the prime minister, and the independent parliamentary group. They divided themselves in two, the majority being with the prime minister as to official parliamentary group, OPG, and those who wanted to be in opposition, they call themselves independent parliamentary group. This is how they started off. And then the parliament decided, because I'm not the know-all. I started the ball. How it

is to be played in future depends on how the elected representative feel. I started a nonparty system, but then I found the elected representative wanted to group themselves in parties, and that's how the parliament has now passed a political parties act laying down the rules of the game for the political parties.

[Silver] But now that those parties are back, parties outside parliament but parties which claim genuinely to be democratic parties. Do you exclude the possibility of giving them an opportunity to go back to the people, to present themselves for election before 1990?

[Ziaul Haq] No, we have not, we have not banned anything at all, we have not stopped anybody. The parliament have devised a political parties act; in other words, this is the rules of the game for the political parties to operate...

[Reynolds interrupting] Can, can I ask you then, perhaps she's watching at this moment, from her flat at the Barbican, if Miss Benazir Bhutto comes back in 2 or 3 weeks how free is she to operate as a party leader in Pakistan?

[Ziaul Haq] As free as any other political party in Pakistan or party leader in Pakistan, there are no restrictions on any political leader whatsoever.

[Reynolds] Can you guarantee her safety?

[Ziaul Haq] I guarantee it; It is my duty. Not only mine, but the Government of Pakistan's duty not only to safeguard the life of Benazir Bhutto but everyone, from the lowest to the highest.

[Silver] When she came back last August, she was given similar guarantees. She came back for her brother's funeral and she finished up under house arrest once again. I know times have changed, you don't have martial law now. But can you guarantee that she won't once again finish up under house arrest?

[Ziaul Haq] I'm nobody. There are laws of the land. All those who obey the laws can be as free as that.

[Elliot] But if she comes back and has big meetings, with tens of thousands of people, and if she attacks you personally, which she probably will do and challenge you to face her in an election, can you and your government and the army officers around you stand that sort of pressure very long?

[Ziaul Haq] Mr Elliot, we are a democratic country. In a democracy people don't...[changes thought] people learn to tolerate. And I have lots of patience.

[Elliot] But you told me in November that you were going to retire as chief of Army Staff. The Army still has a lot of influence, a lot of power in this country. And you told me in November that you were going to retire as chief of Army Staff within a few days of martial law ending. Martial law has now been over for more than 2 months. You changed your mind on the chief of Army Staff and you stayed. You changed your mind earlier, as I said, on Islamization policies and the review of that on political parties. Why did you change your mind twice on those two key issues: parties in Islam and you as chief of Army Staff?

[Ziaul Haq] It's what good for the country, what the people, what the elected representatives think of themselves. I am not the know-all, and there is never a last word in politics.

[Elliot] But you said you would retire honorably as chief of Army Staff and you said it would be illogical for you to stay as supreme commander of the Armed Forces and be president in an elected government. Why are you still chief of Army Staff?

[Ziaul Haq] I have returned temporarily to chief Army Staff position in consultation with the prime minister for a very particular reason: If you look at our history, you have three interruptions in martial law — all three from the Armed Forces. And therefore, while we are in the process of stabilizing the political government I, for one, would make it absolutely sure that there is no chance of any future interruption. This will be my [words indistinct]. I am only acting temporarily, for the time being, for a very short while. You may ask me again as to how I can be sure that I will not change my mind.

[Elliot] Have you any fear that some other Army officer in this country might stage a coup?

[Ziaul Haq] No. Not at all...

[Elliot, interrupting] Then why do you need to stay?

[Ziaul Haq] We have very fine, loyal, obedient, professional commanders — chiefs of services. But yet, I have to make 100 percent sure that I act not as a sword over their heads, but as a bridge between the newly-elected democratic government...

[Elliot, interrupting] But if you had given it up, there would have been more likelihood of a coup against you?

[Ziaul Haq] No. That's what you think. I think in a different matter.

[Reynolds] From the domestic scene to Pakistan's relationship with other countries: Since the Russian invasion of Afghanistan, you have had considerable backing from the United States. But I have heard criticism that Pakistan is too reliant on the United States.

[Ziaul Haq] No, that is incorrect. There is biased opinion. Pakistan has got very good relationship with the United States of America and we are very proud of this relationship. And the United States of America has helped us in many ways. But that does not mean either that Pakistan should be taken for granted or that Pakistan is totally dependent on the United States of America in any form.

[Reynolds] You are just now negotiating a new aid package with America. How much are you actually looking for?

[Ziaul Haq] We are not looking for any particular sum of money. But the newly-elected government, rightly, has some high expectations. Expectations in the sense that Pakistan is going through a very critical stage. Pakistan wants to strengthen its economy, the newly-elected democratic government wants to impress the people, and also, we want to have a strong and stable Army. The

prices have escalated, the requirements are enhanced. And therefore, in terms of money, Pakistan is not looking for a particular sum, but Pakistan is looking for a very reliable and credible offer for the next 6 years to come in which we can strengthen our economy, provide whatever maximum Pakistan could do for its defense forces. It is in these two respects the political government now is negotiating, is looking for something better, and more appropriate, more effective than what the military regime contracted with the United States of America. It's as simple as that.

[Elliott] You and other ministers, I think, talked about needing 50 percent more on top of the \$3.2 billion of defense and economic aid that you had in the last package. Would you go along with that figure as a sort of sum you would need?

[Ziaul Haq] I don't think we could lay down Pakistan's requirements are only this much. We are negotiating at the present moment. The next programs are in negotiations. And Pakistan has put up its cards, given its requirements, and actually the government has (?experienced some of its compulsions,) but we will come up, mutually, with a beneficial program.

[Silver] One issue that has put some strain on your relations with the United States in the last couple of years has been your nuclear research program. The Americans, like the Indians and a lot of other people, suspect that you are trying to develop a Pakistani nuclear weapon. First of all, what is the truth about this? Are you engaged in military research, and if you are not, then can you please answer the question that was put by Mr Rajiv Gandhi last winter: What are you making the enriched uranium for if not for military purposes.

[Ziaul Haq] Pakistan, as I said before, is committed for the nuclear program only for peaceful purposes. We have neither the intentions nor the resources nor the desire to utilize nuclear energy for nonpeaceful purposes or for military purposes. I have said so a number of times; the government has gone on record of indicating. We have an enrichment program, an enrichment of uranium — an enrichment of uranium of a low grade. Not a high-grade weapon enrichment program. It's a modest, experimental program in order to have Pakistan acquire the capabilities of a peaceful user. If and when Pakistan is able to get a power reactor, so that we are self-sufficient, self-contained — and that is all there is to it.

[Silver] I have seen an American study, a Senate study, which says that uranium could very quickly be upgraded to weapons-grade to give you a nuclear military option. Isn't that really what Pakistan is up to?

[Ziaul Haq] No. This is, in the first case, technically... [changes thought] I'm not sure, because I'm not a technician. But our aim and purposes are totally different, and we are not looking for. [sentence as heard] And secondly, let me tell you one thing, very simple: that enriched uranium, assuming for a second rich uranium of a high-grade, is not what can give you a bomb, because you can make a bomb or you can think of a bomb by reading books these days. The high school students in the United States of America and Britain probably know everything of what a bomb should have or not have. There are a large number of

backup support for a nuclear military program which Pakistan has neither the desire nor the resources, and we are not entering any military program.

[Reynolds] I saw a headline in one of the papers yesterday that said that your relationship with India, which just a few months ago seemed to be blossoming, was now back to square one. How do you see your future relationship with India?

[Ziaul Haq] Very bright, because we are on a peace offensive, And I have been saying so. I must say that we accelerated the process and on the 17th of December when I was in New Delhi, and I met Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, we had very good results of that meeting. Since then, there have been some cooling off from the Indian side. But there is no reverse as such, so therefore I'm still hopeful that India, because of her own compulsions, if they have any, might have slightly, if I can use the word, decelerated the program...

[Elliott, interrupting] I think in India they probably say the same thing about you. One of the curious things about traveling between the two countries is that they do tend to say the same things about each other. A number of things have emerged as problems, or reemerged as problems. You have ever let Kashmir come out as a major issue, where I got the distinct impression, from both your officials and from the officials on the India side, that Kashmir, although the biggest and longest-running difference between you, would be left on one side until you have solved the other problems. What's gone wrong?

[Ziaul Haq] Nothing.

[Elliott] But you have been making statements about Kashmir, about how it must be solved, how it must be sorted out. Your representative in Kashmir has made similar comments.

[Ziaul Haq] Politicians make a lot of statements. But that does not quite get the policy of the government. The government policy should be seen in what Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo said in the parliament on 28 December 1985. He made a categorical foreign policy statement. And that shows that Pakistan wishes, and will continue to have, good relationship with India and Kashmir — we will resolve peacefully, under the United Nations resolutions and in the spirit of similar agreements. This is the Pakistan stand.

[Elliott] But the Indians complain, particularly bitterly at the moment, that Pakistan is interfering in their problems in Punjab. They allege that Pakistani intelligence officers are still training and equipping Sikhs extremists and helping them to infiltrate across the border and to revive terrorism there. What is the truth about that?

[Ziaul Haq] The truth is Pakistan has always believed in policies of principle, based on principles. We do not allow anybody to interfere in our internal affairs, then how do you expect Pakistan to interfere in the internal affairs of India. The problem is of the Sikhs — is a problem between India and the Sikh community. Pakistan is not a party to it. We have no intentions, and we have done nothing to interfere in the internal affairs of India and we respect the Indian Government's position on the subject.

[Reynolds] Can I bring you to a problem which involves the whole world, and that's the problem of drugs. On the British news last week, the burning of the poppy fields made tremendous headlines. But here, in Pakistan, I read headlines about the misery caused to the farmers of those regions. How can you eradicate the growing of poppies?

[Ziaul Haq] Pakistan in the last 7, 9 years, reduced poppy production from 800 tons to 40 tons. At the present moment, Pakistan's own production is only 40 tons, approximately, of poppies. You must have seen yesterday's papers, and today's papers — we had an incident in one of the areas of the Northwest Frontier province where the poppy field was leveled by the government forces and there was an exchange of fire in which even a member of the National Assembly, which is parliament, was arrested because he was participating in this. You have seen, if you have seen the mood of the house, it is in favor of the poppy growers. But if you see the government's stand, it is in favor of taking all actions of removing the poppy growing altogether. Pakistan stands committed, the Government of Pakistan stands committed to eradicating total production of poppy growing in Pakistan. And we are also taking adequate measures, to the best of our ability, of not allowing the traffickers to take Pakistan as a conduit. This is what our problem is.

[Elliot] It is the trafficking problem which continues. I have been coming to this country for 2 or 3 years and every time I have come I have always heard that people in your regime, Army officers, local commanders, and people in the provincial government have been involved in the trafficking, especially in the key areas where it comes down from the north. What do you say to those allegations?

[Ziaul Haq] No sir, they are totally wrong. These are false accusations. The government of Pakistan and all its resources have been diverted totally to check the trafficking of drugs to Pakistan. And last year, Pakistan has seized something like 4,000 kilograms of heroin and other such drugs. This record is the highest of any country, including Great Britain.

[Elliot] During that time, you finished up with too many addicts in the country. It has now become a problem for you as well as for America and Britain and the other countries that receive the drugs. That must have changed your perceptions; now you have got, I believe, too many addicts, young children, your people in Karachi and other cities.

[Ziaul Haq] We have a large number. According to our count, we have over 300,000 addicts. But we are not doing it for the sake of stopping our own [words indistinct]. We do it as a moral duty, not only for Pakistan but for everybody else.

[Reynolds] Will this be on the agenda when you meet Sir Geoffrey Howe when he visits Pakistan in 2 or 3 weeks.

[Ziaul Haq] We are in touch with the British Government all along. But I must tell you this: I must convey it through your gratitude to the government of Prime Minister Thatcher, that we are in very close coordination and that we are very grateful for the assistance we have received from your government in order to be effective in controlling the trafficking in Pakistan.

[Reynolds] You've got a considerable refugee population here from the war in Afghanistan. Do you think that war is in danger of becoming forgotten?

[Ziaul Haq] This is what I pray; that I hope it doesn't become a forgotten war. And I keep on telling every journalist whom I meet, including Mr Elliot, whom I mentioned last time, that it is a war that requires everybody's sympathies because a superpower has subjugated a tiny little power like Afghanistan. And as a result of this we have in Pakistan 3 million refugees. And as long as, in my opinion, this war remains on the front pages of all the newspapers in the world, there will never be enough moral pressure on the Soviet Union to come to a peaceful agreement, to a solution.

[Reynolds] But doesn't it suit America quite well to have Russia tied up in Afghanistan?

[Ziaul Haq] No. No. These are false accusations and allegations, imaginations that the United States of America wishes to make of Afghanistan — what's the word, a Vietnam of the Soviet Union. This is not so.

[Elliot] But you've benefitted a lot as well. And Pakistan, your regime, has been helped by America because of the occupations of Afghanistan.

[Ziaul Haq] If you call this as a beneficiary, if you call the situation of Afghanistan to be beneficial to Pakistan, then I would rather much like to be nonbeneficiary rather than to be beneficiary. We are not amongst those. Yes, Afghanistan has helped Pakistan to acquire assistance from the United States of America, but not because of Afghanistan, but on moral grounds.

[Elliot] But do you think if there is a settlement of the Afghanistan question that there would still be economic aid coming from America?

[Ziaul Haq] If the United States of America and Pakistan relations are good, which I hope they will be, and I hope they will continue to be, and if Pakistan's needs have to be fulfilled by the United States of America, I'm sure that country will do so irrespective of what the Afghanistan situation may be.

[Elliot] Will you ask for a guarantee of that when you come to your agreement on a new aid package?

[Ziaul Haq] No. There are no guarantees for the packages. It is a mutual agreement between two independent, autonomous countries.

[Silver] President Ziaul, on another long-running conflict in which you have some interest, I noticed in an interview this week that you said that the Palestinians should endorse United Nations Resolution 242; in other words, accept the existence of the State of Israel and they should settle for what they can get on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, and then they should try to live in peace with Israel. Is that the beginning of some new initiative, some new, perhaps higher profile position that you intend to take on that Middle East conflict?

[Ziaul Haq] No, no. There's no new initiative on the part of Pakistan. I was only trying to explain the realities of life and I was also trying to impress Pakistan's point of view on the Palestinian question. Much before Pakistan came into being, the leaders of Pakistan have always supported the Palestinian cause, and Pakistan will continue to support the cause of the Palestinians. But how to resolve this problem? Unless there is an understanding between both, between the United States of America, Israel and the Arab world, and unless you see the realities of life, it will be very difficult to resolve this problem.

[Reynolds] In my final question, President Ziaul, may I bring you back to almost where we began, and ask you, what is to happen to the political prisoners who were held at the end of martial law? When will they be freed?

[Ziaul Haq] There are no, madame, you may or may not believe, there are no political prisoners in Pakistan today.

[Silver] I must give you the names of three people who have been held for some years now, one of them for as long as 6 or 7 years, who have not been charged and have not been tried. I could give you their names if you like, but those people are still in jail as far as I know.

[Ziaul Haq] Well, I'm sure that if I get to know them I will certainly pass them on to the prime minister to see. But there are, then, the present laws of Pakistan, do not afford to have prisoners, or anybody, without being charged.

[Reynolds] On that note, thank you for facing the press today, President Ziaul.

[Ziaul Haq] Thanks so much.

Protest Lodged Over Afghan Bombing in Khurram
BK201552 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1510 GMT
 20 Mar 86

[Text] The Government of Pakistan has strongly protested the unprovoked bombing and rocketing of various Pakistan areas in the Khurram Agency. Three Afghan aircraft fired 10 rockets at the Qarshia post 2 miles south of Kharlachi last Sunday [16 March] injuring four personnel of the security forces. Later, these aircraft fired rockets at (Matasanghar) refugee camp 200 meters south of Qarshia killing 2 refugees and injuring 3 others. On Tuesday last four Afghan aircraft at 17:35 bombed the Qarshia post and fired rockets killing four militiamen of the Khurram Agency and injuring 15 others. The Afghan charge d'affaires was summoned to the Foreign Office this afternoon and a strong protest was lodged with him over these unprovoked attacks.

Further on Visit of Polish Deputy Foreign Minister

Calls on Yaqub Khan
BK180710 Karachi Domestic Service in English
 1700 GMT 17 Mar 86

[Text] The visiting deputy foreign minister of Poland, Mr Jan Majenski, called on the foreign minister, Sahabzada Yaqub

Khan, in Islamabad this afternoon. The foreign minister spoke of the resolve to further strengthen relations between the two countries and [words indistinct] on issues of mutual interest.

Departs After 'Useful' Talks
BK181026 Karachi Domestic Service in English
 1005 GMT 18 Mar 86

[Text] The deputy foreign minister of Poland, Mr Jan Majenski, left Islamabad today at the conclusion of his visit to Pakistan. Talking to newsmen at Islamabad airport, the deputy foreign minister of Poland said he had held very useful discussions with Pakistani officials for further expanding bilateral cultural and economic cooperation. He said Pakistan and Poland had always been very good trading partners and maintained good ties in economic and cultural fields. Mr Jan Majenski said it has been decided to hold meetings once in a year at the level of deputy foreign ministers to review bilateral relations.

Opposition Official Warns of U.S. Naval Presence
GF201315 Lahore JANG in Urdu 16 Mar 86 p 1

[Article by JANG correspondent]

[Text] Gujranwala — Addressing an MRD meeting held at Sheranwala Bagh, Gujranwala, the chairman of the National Liberation Front, Mr Me'raj Muhammad Khan, said: Pakistan is a sign of our prestige and pride. Pakistan has never before faced the danger to its territorial integrity which it is facing today. A U.S. naval unit has anchored off Pakistani waters. The machinations of the colonial powers began the Iran-Iraq war. Muslim brethren have been forced to war against each other and now they are hatching plots against Pakistan. If the United States launches an attack on Iran from Pakistani seas, then Pakistan will be made a burial ground for the colonialists. Plans are being made against Pakistan. It is said that the U.S. naval unit is in Pakistani waters with the willingness of the Government of Pakistan. Before it launches an attack on Iran, it will be blown up by bombs. The government's power rests on four pillars: the United States, GHQ [General headquarters], landowners, and opportunists. They should be pulled out by their roots. Mr Me'raj Muhammad Khan also said that President Ziaul Haq should give up power by 5 July.

NAWA-E WAQT Criticizes U.S. Envoy's Interview
GF181555 Lahore NAWA-E WAQT in Urdu 17 Mar 86 p 3

["Review" column by Muhammad Iqbal Suhail: "American Ambassador's Misstatement"]

[Text] The press interview with U.S. Ambassador Mr Deane Hinton with Pakistani correspondents on 2 March was broadcast by Radio Israel and a part of the Arab press also published a summary of it. The interview carried out by Mr Deane Hinton was not only full of contradictions but also hinted that he considered Pakistanis to be immature and ignorant. People in Europe and the United States often talk of Afro-Asians as fools. By sitting on the high cliffs of technology and scientific progress

the United States is mistaken to think that it has full knowledge of the feelings and understandings of other nations. It should realize those cliffs are based on hollow imaginations and weak foundations. The deadly destructive biochemical environment which the Americans breathe makes them incapable of stepping down to the human level and of thinking as humans think. It would be self-deception to expect them to think in a rational way. In fact, the entire interview of his excellency the ambassador is a collection of misstatements, but two of his misstatements require special attention:

The first statement is when he said: "In relation to the Middle East, the Pakistani Muslims and Muslims all over fail to understand the American political course and that the Palestinians are not fighting in their own territory." The brightest point in American diplomacy is that nobody can compete with them in misstatements and trickery. Within 1 week the United States has used its veto three times against the Muslims in the UN Security Council. Despite this it still claims to be a democracy. The question of the Middle East is quite simple but the United States has complicated it. Even a fool can understand that to collect the Jews from all over the world, to forcibly make them reside in Palestine, to turn the Palestinians out of their own homeland, and to crush them through various tricks is not democracy in any sense of the word. The question now is: Are the Americans so stupid that they do not understand this? Israel is an artificial state; this is the highest proof of the American neocolonial system.

How and why did the Palestinians become terrorists? For more than 30 years your fascist colleagues have been crushing the Palestinian people. A French research center has estimated that 100,000 Muslim Palestinians have been slaughtered in Lebanon, 200,000 children have been orphaned, and 250,000 wounded Palestinians are living in a most tragic condition. Some 300,000 Palestinians have been killed in Lebanon during the last 10 years. There are 60,000 Palestinians suffering torture in jails. Young children and girls were violated in the Al-Aqsa Mosque. Was not all this "terrorism"? Defenseless Palestinians were being slaughtered for years with American arms and under American guidance. Was all this a "picnic"? But when in Rome and Vienna a couple of men were killed and some glass panes were broken, then the worshippers of the grand democracy of the White House lost their senses. Where were these champions of human rights sleeping in those days? The United States has openly violated the human rights charter in the security council. It is the Muslims who have control of the Muslim holy places in Palestine and the right to safeguard Islamic relics. Israel has desecrated these places and condemnation of Israel was just and fair in accordance with the human rights charter. Can Mr Deane Hinton say to what democracy belongs the United States, which made fun of human rights by using its veto in the Security Council? This is the worst example of dictatorship and despotism in the annals of the history of mankind. Gunboat and the cowboy policies are the real face of the mask wearers of the Pentagon and Wall Street, and it cannot be hidden under the name of democracy. To use the veto three times in a week against the basic rights of the Muslims is not only stupidity but the worst example of cowardice.

The American, Soviet, and European Jews set up 550 settlements in occupied Palestine after throwing out the Palestinians. These

rapacious animals of the current age are doing this with the backing of the United States. The "great democratic civilization" of the White House can see all this. But if it can see all this then what is meant by the misstatements. How are the independence-seeking Palestinians different from the Afghan refugees? This is strange logic. The PLO has fought for the last 3 years in its own territory. A blind person can also see this. The incidents in Rome and Vienna are the doings of hired terrorist organizations of the United States and Europe. The United States is the biggest base of terrorism. According to FBI reports the daily crime rate in the United States is higher than anywhere in the world. Is this also the work of the PLO? Racist practices in Israel and South Africa are done under U.S. protection. It is quite a different thing that the innocent people of the United States do not know which Mafia is ruling them.

The second misstatement of his excellency the ambassador is: The United States is supporting the struggle for liberation of the Afghan Mujahidin. The United States also boasts of providing aid. These are such bogus statements that if Abraham Lincoln were alive he would have torn up the charter of American democracy and thrown it into the Amazon.

Look at the graph of the aid that you had given in Korea and Vietnam and compare it with the graph of the "aid" which you are giving to the Afghan Mujahidin as reflected in your own mass media. You have given four times more aid to Soviet-controlled Ethiopia than the food and financial aid given to the Afghan Mujahidin, of which Mr Deane Hinton mentioned in his interview. Perhaps you also know that half of the aid you sent is unfit for use by the time it reaches here.

According to the Chinese News Agency the Afghan Mujahidin are fighting their battle themselves and the "1001 stories" of American aid are stories manufactured in the United States. Such stories are manufactured in Hollywood every day. The Chinese News Agency also says that most of the arms used by the Afghan Mujahidin are of Soviet make. It is obvious that the United States would not buy arms from the Soviet Union and then give it to the Afghan Mujahidin. In fact, this would be against the norms of the Geneva summit.

It would have been better for Mr Deane Hinton to understand that imperialism and colonialism cannot always go together. In regard to the question of Palestine, it is not only the feelings of the Muslims, but history, justice, fairness, and democratic principles are also on the side of the Muslims. Sooner or later the Israeli vagabonds will have to leave Palestine. Vetoes cannot alter the courses of history.

The Muslims all over the world know that it is to keep Israel alive that Muslims of Iran and Iraq are forced to go at each other's throat and on the other side Afghanistan has been occupied.

Occupation of Afghanistan actually means to upkeep the existence of Israel. Just as the Soviet imperialism offered bogus aid to the PLO and by cheating the Arabs put Palestine in the lap of Israel, similarly the United States by cheating the Afghan Mujahidin, is making propaganda of its bogus aid to them.

JASARAT on 'Deteriorating' Law and Order Situation
GF191614 Karachi JASARAT in Urdu 15 Mar 86 p 3

[Editorial: "The Concern Is Justified"]

[Text] The law and order situation in Sind and in other parts of the country is deteriorating rapidly. Everybody feels unsafe and at the mercy of dacoits and criminals. Dr Muhammad Qureshi, the leader of the Jama'at-e Islami and member of the Sind provincial assembly, has expressed deep concern over this situation. He has drawn the attention of the Sind chief minister and has taken to task the Sind administration. He said that bureaucracy is creating this situation under a premeditated plan to bring about hatred toward the regime to such an extent that it would be difficult for it to save itself. They are waiting for the moment when the enemies of the country can take advantage of this unrest in the country.

The provincial government should take serious notice of this situation and should take to task the organizations and agencies which, due to their incompetence and indifference, are bringing a bad name to the popularly elected regime and are making it difficult for it to stand on its feet and to stabilize democracy.

Improved Chances for Nuclear Plant Reported
GF171202 Karachi DAWN in English 12 Mar 86 p 1

[Text] Islamabad, March 11: In what is regarded as a very positive development Pakistan is reported to have at last succeeded in establishing its nuclear "innocence" in the international corridors of power.

While a formal no objection certificate is not expected to be issued by those who had in the past led an intense campaign against Pakistan's nuclear intentions it is, however, believed by knowledgeable circles that the country's efforts to establish a nuclear power plant now would, more likely than not, face no opposition any more.

In the changed circumstances the chances of clinching a deal with foreign suppliers for the establishment of Chashma nuclear power plant without having to sign the non-proliferation treaty (NPT) have brightened according to independent observers.

Pakistan is said to have already received a number of offers in response to its tenders for the Chashma nuclear power plant issued about three years back.

The most attractive of these offers are said to have come from Belgium and West Germany. Meanwhile France is reported to

have offered a power plant as compensation for going back on the reprocessing plant agreement.

According to informed sources, these offers are now said to be under consideration of the government. The one hitch in accepting the French offer is said to be the unhappy experience with this country over the reprocessing deal.

Northwest Frontier Poppy Growers Shot Dead
GF171404 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 11 Mar 86 p 4

[Editorial: "Corpses in Poppy Fields"]

[Text] On March 8 a joint NWFP [Northwest Frontier Province] Police and Frontier Constabulary force littered the fields of poppy flowers at Swabi with human corpses and then proceeded to raze the standing poppy crop to the ground. According to the official press note eight persons died, 31 were injured and 120 arrested. But the unofficial count puts the toll at: 12 killed, 37 injured and 300 arrests.

The strong-arm action by the so-called law-enforcing agencies against the innocent farmers of the NWFP has generated a wave of indignation throughout Pakistan voiced both in the National Assembly and at a huge public meeting at Swabi. It is now well known that the sad incident is a reflection of the antiheroin policy adopted by Islamabad at the behest of Washington. For long the U.S. as well as other Western powers have been pressing the Government of Pakistan to take effective measures to stop poppy cultivation.

It was, however, difficult for the Government to deprive the farmers of their traditional source of living without providing them alternative means of livelihood and compensation for their standing crops. The U.S. therefore, provided Rs. 30 crore to aid a project for the purpose. While the project remains unimplemented, the Government hastened to stop poppy cultivation by force, perhaps, to appease the donors aid package to Pakistan is under discussion. It was no wonder, therefore, that the MNA [Member National Assembly] and MPAS [Member Provincial Assemblies] of the area openly supported the farmers' demand for compensation.

While no sane person would support the manufacture and smuggling of heroin, the Government's methods are reminiscent of British days. A regime claiming to be democratic can scarcely justify the use of force without first exhausting peaceful means. The Swabi unrest has the potential of spreading throughout the NWFP unless the Government takes prompt measures to compensate for its blunder.

NEPAL

Prime Minister Resigns, New Government Formed

Bahadur Resigns

HK210530 Hong Kong AFP in English 0435 GMT 21 Mar 86

[Text] Kathmandu, March 21 (AFP) — Nepal's King Birendra has accepted the resignation of Prime Minister Lokendra Bahadur Chand in the run-up to general elections May 12 and ordered the formation of an interim government, a palace statement said Friday.

The palace press note said the king had ordered Nagendra Prasad Rijal, 59, who served as prime minister in early 1975 and has held several posts under the partyless Panchayat system, to constitute an interim government.

The official announcement of the new government's formation is expected to be made at 0730 GMT. But sources close to Mr Rijal indicated the new government was expected to be composed of a ten-member Council of Ministers.

Mr Chand submitted his resignation to King Birendra Thursday in the run-up to general elections scheduled for May 12, the palace said Thursday, adding that the king had asked Mr Chand to stay on until "new arrangements are made."

The Nepalese opposition, including the outlawed Nepalese congress, had demanded the resignation of Mr Chand and his cabinet to ensure free and fair polls to elect 112 members of the national Panchayat (parliament).

New Government Members Named

HK211325 Hong Kong AFP in English 1307 GMT 21 Mar 86

[Text] Kathmandu, March 21 (AFP) — The royal palace here announced on Friday that the following had been sworn in as members of the new Nepalese Government:

Prime Minister and minister of defence and royal palace affairs: Nagendra Prasad Rijal;

Minister of public health, law and justice: Rudra Prasad Giri;

Minister of commerce, industry, local supply, labour and social welfare: Bada Nanda Jha;

Minister of public works, transport and tourism: Krishna Raj Aryal;

Minister of water resources and agriculture: D. P. Adhikari;

Minister of foreign affairs, education, and culture: Ranadhir Subba;

Minister of state for home affairs, panchayat, local development, and general administration: Lila Rajh Bista;

Minister of state for forests, agriculture, land reform, and soil conservation: Narendra Nath Banstola;

Minister of state for communications: Achyut Raj Regmi;

Minister of state for finance: Bharat Bahadur Pradhan.

New Government Sworn in

HK211318 Hong Kong AFP in English 1302 GMT 21 Mar 86

[Excerpt] Kathmandu, March 21 (AFP) — Nepal's King Birendra on Friday swore in a new government, led by Nagendra Prasad Rijal, to rule the country until after parliamentary elections in May.

A written statement from the palace said the king had administered the oath of office to the 10-member government at a simple ceremony at the palace.

The new government replaced the 32-month administration of Lokendra Bahadur Chand, who resigned on Thursday.

The Nepalese opposition had demanded the resignation of Mr Chand and his government to ensure free and fair polling in a general election on May 12.

Voters are to elect 112 members of the National Panchayat (Parliament). The king appoints the other 28 members.

The leader of the banned Nepali Congress Party, Ganesh Man Singh, described the new government as "meaningless" and reiterated his party's decision to boycott the elections.

The Nepali Congress wants the abolition of the Panchayat system, under which political parties are not allowed, the constitution of an impartial election commission, the formation of an interim government comprising representatives of all banned parties, and the release of all political prisoners.

Meanwhile, the leftist All Nepal Free Nationalist Students' Union held demonstrations here calling for the political opposition to unite to fight the Panchayat system, a union source said.

Mr Rijal, a 59-year-old orthodox high-caste Hindu from a landowning family, previously served as prime minister in early 1975 and has held several other government posts in the past.

Announces 'Productive Oriented' Plan

HK210918 Hong Kong AFP in English 0855 GMT 21 Mar 86

[Text] Kathmandu, March 21 (AFP) — King Birendra Friday named Nagendra Prasad Rijal to head an Interim government in the run-up to general elections May 12, following the resignation of Prime Minister Lokendra Bahadur Chand, a palace statement said.

The palace press note said the king had accepted the resignation submitted Thursday by Mr. Chand and had ordered Mr. Rijal, 59, who served as prime minister in early 1975 and has held several posts under the partyless Panchayat system, to form an interim government.

The Nepalese opposition, including the outlawed Nepalese Congress, had demanded the resignation of Mr. Chand and his cabinet to ensure free and fair polls to elect 112 members of the National Panchayat (Parliament).

Mr. Rijal told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE that in addition to conducting the elections in a "free and fair" manner, his interim government would seek to minimise the impact of a recent currency devaluation and to adopt a long-term policy aimed at providing relief for the Nepalese people.

He said he would prepare a "productive oriented" plan to cope with the local shortages of consumer goods and to control market prices.

An official announcement of the new government's formation and an oath-taking ceremony for Mr. Rijal to be held at the royal palace were expected later Friday.

Meanwhile, sources close to Mr. Rijal indicated that the new government would likely be composed of a ten-member Council of Ministers, including six cabinet-rank ministers and four state ministers with independent portfolios.

Only Education and Foreign Affairs Minister Ranadhir Subba, Health and Land Reform Minister Rudra Prasad Giri and State Minister For local Administration Lila Raj Bista are to be retained in the interim government with the same portfolios, the sources added.

According to Nepalese constitution, the interim government is due to serve a term of three months, during which 112 new parliament members are to be elected to join with 28 others appointed by the king to form a new government.

The 140 members of the National Panchayat are then expected to elect a new prime minister in late June.

PRC Officials Leave After Conducting Trade Talks

HK200814 Hong Kong AFP in English 0746 GMT 20 Mar 86

[Text] Kathmandu, March 20 (AFP) — Chinese trade officials left here Thursday after agreeing to help Nepal set up mills, maintain a highway linking Kathmandu and Lhasa, increase imports and aid tourism.

The issues came up during five rounds of meetings held here by the China-Nepal intergovernmental committee for trade and economic relations.

A Nepalese Finance Ministry senior official told AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE that China had agreed during the sessions to complete a paper mill and begin construction on a sugar refinery.

China said it would supply machinery for the setting up of a tyre factory, set up two brick factories, and maintain the 26 kilometre (16 mile) Barhabise-Kodari sector of the Chinese-aided Kathmandu-Kodari highway linking the Tibetan capital Lhasa for the next two years.

It will send technicians to prepare the design and survey of 60 kilometres (38 miles) of the Pokhara-Baglung highway, increase the volume of imports from Nepal, and extend fullest cooperation for the development of tourism.

An eight-member Chinese team led by Wang Wendong, assistant minister for China's foreign economic and trade relations, and Nepalese officials led by D.D. Chand, assistant finance minister, participated.

SRI LANKA

Parliament Approves Extension of State of Emergency

BK201309 Colombo Domestic Service in English 1245 GMT 20 Mar 86

[Excerpt] The proposal for the extension of the state of emergency by a further month was passed by a two-third majority in parliament a short while ago — 126 members voted for the proposal, no member voted against it.

Jayewardene Says Political Solution Unworkable

BK151609 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 15 Mar 86

[Text] The Sri Lankan president says he cannot have a political solution to the ethnic problem until the militants are defeated or surrender. PTI quotes him as saying this in an interview with the London *TIMES*.

Mr Jayewardene said even if there is a political settlement, it cannot be implemented. At the same time, he said, he is prepared to talk to the militants and call the army to the barracks the moment the militants give up their campaign, as he put it. He made it clear that he is not willing to go far to compromise on the document drawn up after India offered its good offices.

Paper Criticizes Gandhi's Remarks on Ethnic Issue

BK150018 Colombo DAILY NEWS in English 8 Mar 86 p 6

[Editorial: "Res Non Verba?"]

[Text] Indian prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, according to an All-India Radio announcement, has told the Indian Rajya Sabha that Sri Lanka should back its desire for a political solution to the ethnic problem with specific action towards its attainment.

Such generalisations rarely offer an effective rostrum for any malady. The test of matching words with deeds is simply a yardstick of sincerity, applicable alike to India, no less than to Sri Lanka.

It may be equally true that there are none so blind as those who *will* not see. In recent years, Sri Lanka has, palpably beyond doubt, consistently endeavoured to conciliate Tamil opinion. The enhanced status granted to the Tamil language, the appointment of Tamils to key positions never before held by them, the All-Party Conference, the Thimpu talks, the Ceasefire once declared in the North and East, the creation of a fully fledged University in Batticaloa, and the grant of citizenship to 95,000 Tamils of Indian origin surely provide some tangible testimony of the Lankan Government's desire to resolve a dispute that it inflicting new strains on it every day.

With the lessons of Punjab and Kashmir on her hands, India should be slow to cast incriminating aspersions at other countries.

Even now, it has been affirmed on behalf of the Government of this country that Sri Lanka is ready to negotiate on the terms of the Delhi draft.

Ironically, few in India seem inclined to demand specific action or an equally specific restraint of the people who terrorise the North and the East, people who lay mines on roads used by innocent villagers, people who shoot up whole families in humble Sinhala fishing villages, or attack Buddhist places of worship.

The Indian Government may not have had time, of course, to examine the full implication of the mass kidnap of some 130 Grama Sevakas or local officials who were invited to talks designed to bring about better understanding and an easier life-style in some of the strife-torn areas.

Indian criticism, today, almost begins to sound like sabre-rattling. Surely, India knows only too well what damage terrorism can do. Surely, she accepts the position that there can be no compromise with death-dealers and political assassins.

Undoubtedly, there are many reasons, the refugee question apart, why the unrest prevailing in the North and East should concern India. In today's world more than ever, it becomes your business when your neighbour's fence catches fire.

But good neighbourliness demands that you do not fan the flames that threaten him and indirectly the whole region; that is to say good neighbourliness is also proved by deeds and not mere words; by idle censure least of all.

The Indian Government is surely aware of the repeated appeals to it to dismantle terrorist camps on the Indian mainland, to halt the flow of arms to the rebel groups in the island. That would save innocent lives, that would end the refugee problem soon enough.

Some meaningful action by India, then, might be as much in season as that which she demands of the people of this island.

Terrorists Said Preparing To Move Arms to North

*BK191112 Colombo International Service in English
1030 GMT 19 Mar 86*

[Text] According to informed sources, Sri Lankan terrorists are preparing to move large consignments of arms across Palk Strait to the north for a planned attack on a security forces establishment in the Jaffna peninsula. The consignments were said to have been moved from the coastal town of (Vedrain) from Madurai.

Reportage on Fighting Between Tamils, Soldiers

19 Die in 21 Mar Clash

HK211410 Hong Kong AFP in English 1358 GMT 21 Mar 86

[Text] Colombo, March 21 (AFP) — Eighteen militant Tamil separatists and a Sri Lankan soldier have been killed in clashes in the Northern Province, officials said here Friday.

Twelve separatists were killed and 17 arrested after they attacked government troops with small arms and grenades in Vavuniya District Thursday, a National Security Ministry spokesman said.

Residents in the area said that troops on a search operation had opened fire in the village of Nedunkerny, killing 15 people and setting fire to 10 houses and eight shops.

Troops had set fire to another 10 houses in Ertumiril in the same area and arrested 14 people, they added.

The ministry spokesman said he did not know whether houses and shops had been burned, but added that when "terrorists" who attacked troops were killed, it was often reported that civilians had been killed and houses burned.

The Joint Operations Command (JOC), the main anti-guerrilla headquarters, said Friday that six Tamil militants were killed in northeastern Mullaitivu Friday when troops out on an operation were attacked with mortars and small arms.

Later Friday, one soldier was killed when militants attacked an army camp in Thondamannar in the northern Jaffna Peninsula with mortars, JOC sources said.

'Terrorists' Killed in Kilinochchi

*BK171113 Colombo International Service in English
1030 GMT 17 Mar 86*

[Text] Seven Marxist terrorists were killed and one injured when security forces opened fire at Kilinochchi in northern Sri Lanka yesterday after the terrorists, traveling in a tractor, had thrown three hand grenades at the troops patrolling the area. The troops were patrolling the Kilinochchi area when they noticed a tractor and a trailer approaching them. The trailer was carrying a number of men and women.

Meanwhile, troops clearing a bridge, which had been blown up by the terrorists yesterday, captured three Marxist terrorists belonging to the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam [LTTE].

Forty-six Marxist terrorists were captured by the security forces yesterday at (Navalapi) in the eastern province. Security sources told LANKA PUWATH that, on information received that the terrorists were operating in the (Navalapi) area, a search operation was conducted. The captured terrorists are being interrogated.

Tamil citizens in Kilinochchi are reported to have demonstrated against the terrorist attack on the Jaffna-bound train, which left

5 dead and over 30 persons seriously injured on Saturday. The citizens are said to have put up posters asking the terrorists not to indulge in such wanton acts.

Meanwhile, a railway official said yesterday that the estimated damage is around 6 million rupees with three carriages being completely destroyed and six others badly damaged. Railway sources said that the tracks will be repaired in the few days to ensure the food supply lines.

Mrs (Manuari Punneratnam), the wife of the district engineer of Batticaloa in eastern Sri Lanka, has been shot dead by terrorists. A spokesman for the National Security Ministry said that the terrorist group, LTTE, had claimed responsibility for the killing. No reason for the killing had been given so far.

The National Security Ministry spokesman also said that terrorists had robbed Mrs (Punraratnam) of all her jewelry.

Delhi Report

BK170219 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 17 Mar 86

[Text] In Sri Lanka, seven persons were killed yesterday when troops fired at them while they were traveling in a tractor in Killinochchi. Defense Ministry sources which described them as militants said the occupants of the tractors fired and threw grenades at the troops who returned the fire. An injured person was taken into custody. Defense Ministry sources further claimed that another militant was killed when security forces fired at a group of people attempting to plant landmines on a road leading to Velvatti town. The militants had earlier blasted a bridge connecting Velvatti town with Jaffna Peninsula.

Our Colombo correspondent Plaban Majumdar reports that the Sri Lankan high commissioner to India, Mr Bernard Tilakaratne, left for New Delhi yesterday after week-long consultations in Colombo.

Tamils Blow Up Navy Boat, Kill 25

HK190048 Hong Kong AFP in English 1601 GMT 18 Mar 86

[Text] New Delhi, March 18 (AFP) — At least 25 Sri Lankan navymen were drowned Monday when Tamil separatist militants blew up their patrol boat with a sea mine, the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) reported Tuesday.

The agency said in a report from Madras citing the Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front (EPRLF) that the blast occurred when the Navy boat was on a patrol to locate sea mines off the Oorkhavalthurai area of the island.

Following the incident, the Sri Lankan Navy opened fire in Oorkhavalthurai injuring three people and badly damaging two houses, the PTI report said, adding that the situation in the area was tense.

In another incident Monday, five Muslims were killed in the

Kenniya area, near Trincomalee in the Eastern Province, during a clash between home guards and Tamil militants.

The victims were returning home after work, PTI said quoting a release by the Eelam People's Information Centre in Madras.

The EPRLF is one of several militant Tamil separatist groups which have their bases in Madras, the capital of the southern Indian state of Tamil Nadu.

Government Denies Vessel Sunk

HK190506 Hong Kong AFP in English 0451 GMT 19 Mar 86

[Text] Colombo, March 19 (AFP) — The government denied Wednesday that Tamil separatists blew up a Naval patrol vessel killing 25 sailors in the northern waters on Monday. "No patrol craft was blown up nor were any sailors killed," National Security Minister Lalith Athulathmudali told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE.

The Eelam Peoples Revolutionary Liberation Front (EPRLF) was cited by the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA as saying Tuesday that militants blew up a naval craft with sea mines near Kayts in the northern waters killing at least 25 sailors. In the statement made in Madras — capital of Tamil Nadu in southern India — the militants said that the vessel had been engaged in mine sweeping.

A high-ranking security source also denied the incident and said that the militants were trying to create the impression that they had mined the northern waters. Navy patrol craft do not carry such a large number of sailors, the source added.

Troops Kill 15 in Vavuniya

BK201603 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 20 Mar 86

[Text] In Sri Lanka, 15 persons, including 1 woman have been shot dead by the security forces during a search operation in Nedunkeni near Vavuniya. The security operations, which reportedly started in the area last night, continued upto 1000 this morning. Three persons have been injured and 14 taken into custody. According to a complaint lodged by the chairman of the Nedunkeni Grama Udaya Mandala [village resurgence group] with the civil authorities (?in) Vavuniya, all those killed are cultivators or shopkeepers of the area. The army men reportedly came in one jeep, two armored cars and six tractors and removed seven dead bodies. There have also been complaints of largescale looting. There is no official statement on the incident.

4 'Terrorists' Killed, 17 Captured

BK211323 Colombo Domestic Service in English 1245 GMT 21 Mar 86

[Text] Four Marxist terrorists were killed and 17 others were captured when security forces effectively repulsed a terrorist attack at Nedunkeni in Vavuniya yesterday. Security forces were

attacked by Marxist terrorist across the security bases at Nedun-
keni [words indistinct]. The security forces returning the fire
killed 4 terrorists and capturing 17. Two shotguns and [words
indistinct] and terrorist literature were recovered by the security
forces. There were no casualties among the troops.

S. Gunasekharan, [words indistinct] and active member of the
Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam — LTTE — was captured by
the security forces at Kilinochchi yesterday.

Messages Addressed to Nation on New Year's Day

Khomeyni Appears on TV

LD202232 Tehran IRNA in English 2223 GMT 20 Mar 86

[Text] Tehran, March 21, IRNA — In his message to the nation on the occasion of the Iranian new year (Nowruz March 21) the leader of the revolution and founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Imam Khomeyni, called on Iran's Muslim people to devote themselves more wholeheartedly to the ideals of Islam and make sincere effort for freeing their souls from attachment to profane values.

The imam who appeared on the Iranian television network also paid lavish tribute to Muslim combatants fighting in the battlefronts and lauded them for safeguarding Islam in a holy war.

Starting his new year's day message with a familiar supplication attributed to Imam 'Ali (AS) and imploring the Almighty to transform the inner selves of Muslim men and women to the best possible example of a human being, the imam called on the masses to reflect on the philosophy and purpose of man's life on the earth and rather than indulge in sinful acts think of how they can do away with selfish and mundane pursuits.

Imam Khomeyni also prayed to God for the spiritual transformation of a small sector of the society who might be indifferent to the self-sacrificing struggle of Iran's Muslim combatants and expressed hope that that which dims the eyes of the people and paralyzes their humane faculties may be cast away so that in the new year every Muslim may walk firmly in a divine path inspired by an inner light of sublime knowledge.

Tehran Cites Khomeyni Address

LD210330 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
2205 GMT 20 Mar 86

[12-minute address by the leader and founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni to the Iranian nation on the occasion of the Islamic New Year; place and date not given — recorded]

[Excerpts] I pray to God to effect a change in our present spiritual state. We still are involved in our worldly whims and God is aware. God can save us. O God, please do not allow the victories we have gained to have an adverse effect upon us, to make us proud, or to divert us from the path of the prophets, peace be upon them. I hope the new year will be blessed for all the Islamic nations, especially the oppressed nation of Iran which has spent many long years in bondage. Just as the spirit of our dear combatants who are present on the battlefronts, and God willing, will continue to be present, have been transformed, I hope God will change our spirits in the way that will please him. All the teachings of God's prophets boil down to two words, specifically divine knowledge. This is the basic premise. If they have extended invitations to us to act in a righteous manner, to cleanse our spirits, to follow religious traditions, it all originates from one basic point. They all have attempted to reveal the one main point that exists in the nature of all men which enables man to achieve that objective — divine knowledge. That is the supreme goal.

The prophets did not want war. They did not want to call on people to do that. They did not wish to invite people to participate in conquering other countries or such ideas. If we do not change our course from that of the prophets, because of the eye-catching victories we have gained with God's blessing, then this new year will be blessed and we will be victorious. If, God forbid, these victories make us proud and cause us to value this world, or make us wish to expand our country and rule over people, then we will not be any different from other superpowers; rather, we will be further behind than they are. The superpowers explicitly state their objectives and say they want to take over the world. They say they intend to protect their interests even if it means trampling on other countries. We have such claims. We consider ourselves followers of Islam. So, if in our hearts we pursue the idea of gaining more power and more prestige, ruling, and expanding our domain, then we will be worse than they since there would be the question of trickery in our case as well.

I would like to thank all the youths from various walks of life and from different corners of the country who have been going to the fronts. They have been through this transformation; the new year's prayers have been answered in their cases to a large extent. Their spiritual condition is different from ours. They go to battlefields, war fronts, to the bosom of death, with smiling faces and strong hearts. When you see them you realize they are different from us. We pray to God to transform us in the same way. We must thank them and pray for them. I do pray for them. We all are dutybound to pray for all our youths, the wayfarers of Karbala, the Guardsmen, the military personnel, the Armed Forces, the mobilization forces, all of them. They are protecting Islam. I hope they will have more eye-catching victories in this new year and that Islam will be strengthened. God willing, all the plots pursued by the world to strengthen our enemies and to push us back, will backfire on them, which is what God Almighty has made happen up to now. We should give our thanks to His presence.

I wish to address the families of martyrs, families of the disabled, the missing, the POW's, and all those who have suffered in this country as a result of the war. They have suffered hardships for God and God will reward them. But it is our duty to pray for them and congratulate them for having such youths. We must congratulate them on raising their youths in such a pure atmosphere. We must congratulate them for being so spiritually strong that they can send their youths to the war, to a place where the possibility of death exists, God forbid. We thank them and pray for them. We pray to God to grant them patience and to reward them. We pray to God to bless them on this new year and new day. We pray to God to transform our hearts, make us realize why we have come to this world, what we must do now that we are in this world, and how we must leave it. We must not die an animal's death; we must not commit sins and be disgraced because of those in the other world.

May God support us and help us to become more human. Islam was brought to this world to make more humane human beings. All prophets had the objective of making man look inward, into his nature to become cognizant of his divine nature and turn to God. Everything is known to God. May God grant us a little knowledge to make us understand this, to understand what we ourselves are, and what the world is in relation to God Almighty,

what the true situation is. It is easy to say everything is transient, but it is difficult to grasp the matter, to realize what the prophets wanted us to do and who they were. Although they were such sublime beings, they confessed to their weakness. That is right since that is proof of these matters.

I hope our combatants and all our Armed Forces will unite and follow the same direction, just as they have done to fortify the fronts and rid the Muslims, the Government and nation of Iraq, and our nation from the evil that has befallen them. I hope they will be able to carry out their own wishes and do the job without delay. God willing they will be victorious. I pray to God to make them victorious; I pray to God to grant us and everyone else victory in our battle against ourselves. I pray to God to make us realize our duties, make us aware of our duties to this nation, accept our services which are intended for them and for you. I pray to God to protect us morally and materially, to make this year a blessed one for all the strata of our nation.

Please God, turn the hearts of those who oppose this Republic for You are the transformer of hearts. Transform them and make them more human and more aware. They are sitting outside the arena and either express happiness every time our youths are wasted or are indifferent. Please God, transform their hearts to healthy ones, take away these blindfolds from our eyes, and make us successful in diligently following divine issues. Shine the light of divine knowledge into our hearts, the hearts of all our nation. Peace be upon you all.

Khamene'i Cites Victories

*LD210111 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
2218 GMT 20 Mar 86*

[Message from President Khamene'i to the Iranian nation on the occasion of the Islamic new year — recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. On the occasion of auspicious new year which coincides with the anniversary of the glorious birthday of the holy Javad, may God's peace be upon him, I convey my good wishes sincerely and from the bottom of my heart to our beloved imam, our respected compatriots, and our heroic nation. I especially convey good wishes to the dear combatants, those in the trenches of the battlefronts of justice, and those defending integrity and independence of the nation; and also to the dear families of the martyrs, the POW's, the MIA's, the self-sacrificing ones, and those wounded in the imposed war.

Fortunately the new year is breaking at a time when our nation has savored the sweet taste of some victories. Even if some beloved ones have become martyrs in the course of these victories and some families are in grief, these victories — the victory of Islam, the glory and greatness of the revolution, and the illustrious face of the Iranian nation as seen throughout the world — are doubtless of great and exalted value to the nation and even to the families of the martyrs themselves. During the year that has ended, our victories were fortunately not limited to military victories. We also enjoyed some success on the international scene because we are present in a world that is looking at the revolution and the nation, especially from the African Continent,

amid deprived and oppressed nations where some of the greatest injustices to human beings are still continuing. Of course, just as our dear nation has shown, we must not be satisfied with any one of these victories, and the move, the struggle, the fight, and the steadfastness must continue until the moment when the exalted objectives of the Islamic Republic and the Islamic revolution have been reached.

We must bring our country to the point wherein it achieves genuine and all-round independence, self-sufficiency, and economy in its science and industry. We must be able to secure the great desires of the people, the slogans of our revolution — that is, total justice — complete well-being, and complete freedom. We must be able to eliminate all the roots of misery, with God's grace, in this country and burn these roots. Evidently it is in this way, that the revolution will convey its true message to the nations of the world, especially to the oppressed nations. It is true that the spirit of our revolution, the resistance of our nation until today, and the stability of the Republic, have been the greatest lessons to the enslaved and oppressed nations. These have also been the biggest warning and notice to world-devouring opportunists and power-seekers. However, we will only be the total hope to nations under oppression who look toward our revolution, our nation, and our country as a genuine model when we have largely achieved these objectives and aspirations and enjoy them.

I hope that the struggle and movement that our nation, with God's grace and with the prophetic leadership of our dear imam and the all-round courage of our Muslim women and men, has undertaken and continued up to now will carry on. The year that has just begun will, God willing, will be happy, fruitful, and full of instructive experiences; may it be a year, God willing, that will enable us to take steps toward our objectives. We must, in this year, continue to see to public welfare, to assist the deprived and helpless. We must see to universal literacy and education; purge the climate and atmosphere of education, especially at the universities and secondary schools, of past traditions; and we must continue our all-round steps on the path of cultural, economic, and political independence. Perhaps through God's favor, we may, God willing, be able to call this year the year of final victory in the imposed war.

With renewed salutes and greeting to you all dear brothers and sisters, especially to the dear families of the martyrs, the missing, the wounded, the self-sacrificing ones, and the POW's, I shall end this brief message. Peace and God's mercy and blessings be upon you.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Interviewed on War With Iraq

*GF200810 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
0430 GMT 20 Mar 86*

[Interview with 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, Majlis speaker and the imam's deputy in the Supreme Defense Council, by unidentified correspondent in Tehran on 19 March — recorded]

[Text][Correspondent] Could you please tell us what topics were discussed at the Supreme Defense Council session?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. We reviewed the war situation, the situation at the fronts, and future circumstances in order to make decisions concerning the war. We also discussed other problems concerning the graduates, those who receive their degrees, since there were certain ambiguities in the laws passed by the Revolution Council in the early days of the revolution concerning their exemption from military service, at a certain age. We reviewed this and concluded that the rule applied to times of peace and not war and that the present policy should continue, that is, they should continue to go in for military service.

Concerning the problems of POW's, the Commission for Support of POW's debated reinforcing the commission and decisions were made on various related humanitarian issues.

[Correspondent] During recent days, we have witnessed bestial attacks upon our residential, urban, and rural areas. The Islamic Republic announced that the necessary response would occur. My question is: What will be the nature of this necessary response and reaction?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] It is the same as our former policy, which the War Information Headquarters has reiterated. Our war policy concerning attacks on economic installations — cities, and in general, civilian areas — is one of retaliation, (?not) one of initial aggression. We never initiate attacks on economic installations. We believe that these centers should remain for the future, as they belong to the people. Iraq is for the people. We plan to take Iraq from the Ba'ath Party and give it to the people. Hence the (?policy) that we have envisaged for our defense does not include attacking economic installations.

Concerning the cities, we consider it inhuman, in principle. We consider the people of Iraq part of us, the civilians that is. We do not feel that it is proper to commit aggression against them — even the seizure of Al-Faw in these operations was because it is uninhabited — except in cases when we are forced to do so. If Iraq attacks nonmilitary installations and residential areas and if we do not retaliate, Iraq would become more belligerent and our people would have to bear the brunt of this. Hence, under such conditions we are forced to resort to retaliation to force the Iraqis to refrain from future aggression.

There are international regulations concerning retaliation and revenge; we do not disagree. Our country acts according to international regulations in this regard. There is also the human factor and the (?Islamic) factor on defending civilians. We act on this. We have instructed our military forces that artillery fire must hit Iraqi economic installations and that the target must be the same as the Iraqi bombing targets. We have issued the same instructions to the Air Force to attack Iraqi territory, of course after similar Iraqi actions.

[Correspondent] Contrary to Western analysts who stated and wrote that the war would not have a victor, the Islamic combatants have proven that this war has a victor. What do you believe in this regard?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] You have seen for yourself what the situation is these days. We have attacked the most difficult point

at the fronts and we were victorious. No one can deny this. Crossing of the Arvand Rud seemed impossible at the beginning of the war to military circles and military observers, but this is now a reality. Our infantry routed the enemy armored personnel and despite the difficulties of crossing the two (?natural obstacles) of Bahmanshir and Arvand, we were able to establish a very strong front. Our defense lines are consolidated on the front and so it has transpired that this war can have a victor, even if they say that it is not possible.

What happened in Al-Faw, will happen in Basra as well. It will be the same on the Basra highway, as well as in Baghdad. Whenever we think it proper, it shall be done in this area. We do not foresee any hindrance and we feel that there can be a victor in this war. We have also stated that we prefer to refrain from bloodshed and Iraq and its supporters should heed our demands and accept them, in this way problems would be resolved.

[Correspondent] What are your views on the U.S. threat and [word indistinct]?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] We consider this the noise of hollow drums. One thing however, it has a particular objective. If the threat is serious — of course I do not consider it serious — the United States would lose if it were to commit aggression against us, whether here or elsewhere around the world. In any case, (?it is impossible) for anyone to do such a thing. Our people would not take it lying down and they would not ignore the aggressor. In fact the United States is more vulnerable than Iraq. Iraq is here, adjacent to us, and it is availing itself of the facilities provided by the United States, the Soviet Union, France, reactionary Arabs, and Zionists, yet it is still (?in this state). The United States wishes to come to this part of the world [words indistinct] and to cross land and sea. I believe it is a mere threat, the objective being only to strengthen the supporters of Saddam, especially those in the area. Even those who have invested in Iraq in any manner and have some sort of business there are trembling with fear because tomorrow they will have to deal with the Iraqi nation, not with Saddam. In principle they are fearful, especially France, which has invested there, and Great Britain, which is also an investor. They should do something to preserve Saddam in regard to his supporters. Saddam is not fighting on the basis of his own strength, as far as I can see. If they leave him now, he will lose his balance. All of our enemy's strength stems from them propping him up by continuing their assistance to him. The United States, France, and Great Britain say such things because they believe that all of their strength is concentrated there, but [words indistinct].

[Correspondent] In light of the recommendations of the UN team's report on the Iraqi regime's use of chemical weapons, what is the Islamic Republic's opinion (?on the same)?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] We still hold our previous views, but what has now been clarified is that Saddam must be overtly condemned as the aggressor. However, mere condemnation is not enough and a demand for his chastisement must be made. What is more important is that Iraq must be specified as the aggressor. If Iraq is recognized as the aggressor and if the preliminaries to establish an international tribunal to impeach the aggressor, Saddam, are implemented all would be resolved and the path to

end the war would be cleared. If such a step is taken by the Security Council, I believe it would be beneficial and the result would be desirable. Anything else is a different matter, but the declaration of condemnation is appropriate. That is, what the United Nations has done, what the secretary-general has done, opens many paths. It is a correct and human gesture, but more could be done.

[Correspondent] Some area countries feel that they are in some danger and the imperialist news agencies are playing this up. In the near future the GCC session is to convene. What is your opinion of the claims of the reactionary states of the area on this?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] It is not true that they are in any danger. We have declared that we are ready to ignore the past. Whatever the reason they may have had for assisting Iraq in the war — of course it is a cardinal sin — if they amend their policy, it is forgivable and we can ignore it. The future depends on their actions. If they wish to participate in the war, it is natural that [word indistinct] cannot ignore it. We spoke to them, but did not threaten them in lieu of their past. We told Kuwait that if, for example, it places Bubiyan Island at the disposal of Iraq, the island would be considered a war zone. We would not hesitate to take it, and if we take it, it would be from the hands of Iraq, not Kuwait. This is not to be considered a threat, merely advice, so that they do not give it to Iraq.

Another example is if they wish to assist Saddam's forces until his downfall it would be a source of danger, because if we do not protest the Iraqi nation would not forgive them once it is liberated. This would bring about many problems. Iraqis would be killed and there would be losses for us and Iraq. The Iraqi nation, we feel, will (?come to power) and tomorrow claim these losses from Kuwait. They will say: If you had not given assistance, there would have been no protracted war. They would note that formerly there was no such loss of life and property. In fact if they do not discontinue their support and indifference, they will be answerable in the future.

This does not mean that we should fight with them, or that we should expand the scope of war with them. Until the last moment in the war we will strive for the war to not spread beyond Iraq and for no other country to be harmed. Our restraint is immense and we are ignoring many of Kuwait's acts in the hope that they will listen and not consider our advice a threat and see that we are good neighbors and not proud, and that we would not harm our neighbors in the event of victory. Instead we would be very cordial neighbors who would cooperate with them in the problems of the area.

[Correspondent] Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the Iraqi Air Force commander announced that our economic installations would be attacked. What are your opinions on the threat?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] Of course it is possible that they may do this. In fact they have attempted to do this over the past 2 or 3 days, but they have not been successful. They make exaggerated threats. For example, they say that they went to a certain place and destroyed 500 tanks and armored carriers, while in fact they have attacked a village and martyred the people there. Their pilots give them false reports or they disseminate fabricated

reports themselves to boost the people's morale. This is what they have done in Al-Faw and other places. They do not know that Khuzestan does not have 500 tanks or armored vehicles in one place. Anyone who knows the abc's of war knows that they cannot attack 500 tanks and vehicles in one place. They are camouflaged in a military manner, and their route is decided — even five tanks cannot be hit by an airplane.

Concerning attacks on economic installations, they have attacked and have been successful in some places and unsuccessful in others. If they want us to retaliate, and if we decide to do so, we can attack far more economic installations, as they are nearer to us. Our installations are deeper inside. It is bitter for us, but we have no choice but to defend ourselves.

[Correspondent] Kuwait has alleged that there are dangerous floating (?mines) in the waters of the area. Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, have these been planted by the Ba'thist regime?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] It is possible that they have been planted by them, as the Iraqis have mined many places in the northern Persian Gulf since the beginning of the war. It is possible that some of the mines are ours because we have mined the mouth of Khawr 'Abdallah recently. It is possible that the flux of tides has taken the mines toward the other side and the waters of Kuwait. Khawr 'Abdallah is on the Bubiyan Island coast, where we have planted mines which do not concern them and which should not come out of Khawr 'Abdallah as Kuwait (?has said). In any case, if they are our mines, they have not been planted for Kuwait, but for Iraq. If they have moved near Kuwaiti areas it is because of the water.

[Correspondent] How do you assess the latest U.S., French, and British moves? The section of the U.S. fleet which has docked at Karachi port and the coming of French battleships for [words indistinct] and the recent British [words indistinct] without any questions from the reactionary regimes of the area?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] As I said earlier, it is to boost the morale of Saddam and his supporters, and to test whether we consider it a serious threat. It does not mean that we have become totally indifferent and that we should say that there is no danger, as they are empty vessels. Empty vessels, under certain conditions, can change into serious threats. My analysis is that their main objective is to reinforce the Saddam regime, which is tottering, and the area of our opponents. It could also pertain to the question of oil. Their policy concerning oil-rich areas is implemented by some of the countries of the area and is a form of support for Saddam. To a certain extent, if we believe that if one should be cautious in the face of such threats, and if we suppose that one day we will be the victims of their aggression, then we tell the people that they should be prepared. We feel that to prevent such an incident in the area, we can instruct our Armed Forces to be prepared, if our people are present on the scene, if our fronts are replete with alert forces, and if we can remain alert on all fronts in the north and south. Hence we should be prepared and not very anxious.

[Correspondent] What is your view on the OPEC session in Geneva and will the Third World OPEC countries be more aware so that their natural resources are not further pillaged?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] I do not have any more information than what has transpired concerning the in camera session in Geneva. The view we have is that the session is (?taking place). What is clear is that the industrial world, including all of the oil-rich countries in the Persian Gulf and other regions, have mustered all resources to break oil (?prices) and this is continuing. However, to break the price (?war) is more expensive than they are aware and the repercussions would not be pleasant in the long run. I feel that the collars [as heard] of many will be caught in this and even those of the industrial powers.

[Correspondent] On the eve of the new year, I request of Your Excellency any special message for our combatants.

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] Our combatants have sweetened the end of the year. The booming salvos that they have sounded on the fronts have changed the atmosphere of the country and the world and have gladdened the Hezbollahis and the friends of Islam. This is the same as during the first days of the war and has made the country euphoric and the people of Iran thank the dear Islamic combatants and laud them. The new year is in fact a time to celebrate the rights of the nation and of Islam. We have (?crushed the enemy) and we should have proved to the world that Islam is capable of defending itself and can manage itself. We can tell the people to concentrate their attention on the fronts during the festival of Nowruz [the Iranian new year]. Today our combatants are the center of attention of the people and instead of going to places of entertainment and on trips, they should focus on the fronts and increase their vigilance in case our enemy is stricken by a schizophrenic fit and attempts dastardly or desperate attacks. If he initiates adventurism by embarking on a war of cities and commits any audacious act in the urban areas and [word indistinct], we shall have a new (?approach). The combatants should be prepared to answer this mischief mongering on the fronts. We shall answer tit for tat. I send our warm salutations and we pray for them and as our dear leader the imam always prays for them. We are awaiting their victories.

Syrian Foreign Minister Al-Shar' Visits Tehran

Arrives With Al-Asad Message

LD201528 Tehran IRNA in English 1520 GMT 20 Mar 86

[Text] Tehran, March 20, IRNA — The Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', carrying a message from the Syrian President Hafez al-Asad for President 'Ali Khamene'i of Iran arrived here this afternoon and was welcomed at Tehran's Mehrabad International Airport by his Iranian counterpart, 'Ali Akbar Velayati.

In a brief interview with IRNA, the Syrian foreign minister said that the trip was within the framework of strengthening friendly and mutual relations. He said that in his meeting with President Khamene'i he will discuss further strengthening of bi-lateral ties.

Following the victory of the 1979 Islamic revolution of Iran, Syria has established very good ties with Iran and these relations will continue to grow further, he added.

Meets With Musavi

LD201802 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1630 GMT 20 Mar 86

[Text] Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' arrived this afternoon in Tehran and was met by our country's Foreign Minister Velayati. On arrival in Tehran the Syrian foreign minister described the objective of his visit as being the delivery of a written message from Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad to President Khamene'i. He stated: This trip falls within the initiatives that are in process between the two friendly countries toward strengthening their relations and in meetings with officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the expansion of relations between the two countries will be discussed. He stressed: Following the victory of the Islamic revolution in Iran, Syria has had very good relations with Iran, and these good and familiar relations will continue.

This afternoon, Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' met and conferred with Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi. In this meeting, which was also attended by Foreign Minister Velayati, Faruq al-Shar' conveyed the salutes and greetings of the prime minister of Syria to the Government and people of Iran and wished the Islamic Republic of Iran success in the coming year. Prime Minister Musavi, giving thanks for the cordiality expressed in the message of the Syrian leader, stressed the need to expand regional and international political and economic cooperation between Syria and Iran. In this meeting, the latest political and economic developments of the region were examined and discussed.

Discusses OPEC With Khamene'i

LD202235 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
2030 GMT 20 Mar 86

[Text] Faruq al-Shar', the Syrian foreign minister and special envoy of Hafiz al-Asad, today met with Mr Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i our country's president. In this meeting Faruq al-Shar' delivered Hafiz al-Asad's message to Mr. Khamene'i. While commenting on our very solid and friendly bilateral relations, Faruq al-Shar' stressed bilateral cooperation and unity in connection with the struggle against imperialism and Zionism.

During this meeting, Mr Khamene'i also referred to conditions existing in the region, especially to the question of OPEC and stated: Our enemies have cut the price of oil in half but we do not accept these imposed prices. Mr Khamene'i added: Although there has been great international pressure on OPEC, we have had very good cooperation from OPEC members, and on the whole, we hold the winning card. In general, we do not believe the issue of oil is an ordinary one and we will act decisively in this connection. Even now, signs of our success and of the withdrawals of our enemies within OPEC can be observed. Mr Khamene'i added: The Islamic Republic of Iran has a very important role to play in devising the bright future of OPEC, and through extensive activities throughout recent months, it has succeeded in preparing some suitable grounds. The president added: We are at present engaged in a war, but we shall make as much effort as is needed to fulfill our just demands in OPEC, and the truth is

that we are not afraid of the problems that others have imposed on us and we shall succeed in the end.

Mr Khamene'i added: There is no doubt that our supremacy in the war will confront Saddam with a dangerous future which the Western powers do not like or that those who will lose out inside OPEC are those who are not pleased with our victories in the war. We also believe that if we change the war to the desirable direction we envisage, this without doubt will also affect OPEC's situation. Doubtless, some of the pressures being brought upon us through the oil issue are to stop us from succeeding on the war front.

Mr Khamene'i added: Today, Syria, among other Arab countries, is renowned for its resistance in the face of Zionism and countries that are compromising with Zionism; this very issue has given Syria prominence. Our people are fond of Syria for this very reason.

After Mr Khamene'i's remarks, Faruq al-Shar' said: We are proud of the genuine statements of the president about Syria in connection with that country's steadfastness. We shall never compromise over our faith and rights and we emphasize that the friendly relations between Syria and Iran will continue and will become increasingly stronger.

In conclusion, Mr Khamene'i expressed his thanks for the fraternal message of Hafiz al-Asad and asked Faruq al-Shar' to convey warm greetings from the president of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Hafiz al-Asad.

Foreign Affairs Ministry Sends Note to UN on Iraq

*LD201305 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 20 Mar 86*

[Text] The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran referred to the renewed violation of international laws by the Iraqi regime's raids against civilian centers and warned against the extension of such raids in a note it sent to the UN secretary general. The note emphasized: In accordance with its permanent policy, the Islamic Republic of Iran does not wish to be forced to take unilateral action which aims to curb Iraqi crimes of launching raids against civilian centers.

The note emphasized Iraq's recent raids against the population centers in Rabat and Shadegan, resulting in the martyrdom or injury of a number of the inhabitants of these areas, and referred to the impossibility of obtaining security guarantees through the United Nations from Iraq for the benefit of the UN inspection team visiting the bombed areas. The note further reads: Just as it has been reflected in the UN note, the opportunity for a visit by the team and the preparation of report for Your Excellency was not made possible. However, in view of the knowledge which Your Excellency has of previous Iraqi raids on cities and civilian centers, and the numerous official and unofficial reports you have at your disposal, there is probably no need to prepare more updated reports corroborating recent Iraqi raids.

In its violations of international and humanitarian rules, Iraq has created such a frightful precedent that the perpetration of any

other crime by the regime seems quite natural. Although the preparation of such documents continues to remain useful and even essential for preliminaries, forecasts, and necessary international reactions, what is important in these circumstances is that Iraq, as already forecast, is about to expand its raids against cities and civilian areas. Raids and numerous sorties by the Iraqi regime's military aircraft on the cities and population centers of the Islamic Republic of Iran during the past 2 days clearly demonstrate this issue.

In accordance with its permanent policy, the Islamic Republic of Iran is not willing to be forced to adopt unilateral action which aims to curb Iraqi crimes in connection with its raids against civilian areas. At the same time in order to safeguard such a position, it is essential that the necessary measures be carried out by the United Nations! In our opinion, a stance adopted by you personally could become extremely effective in curbing further acts of adventurism by Iraq!

Charge to Muscat Meets With Omani Oil Minister

LD142038 Tehran IRNA in English 1720 GMT 14 Mar 86

[Text] Tehran, March 14, IRNA — Oman's Minister of Petroleum and Minerals Sa'id Ahmad al-Shanfari Wednesday said that his country agreed with the need to reduce oil production by the OPEC members as well as other oil producers.

In a meeting with Iran's Charge d'Affaires to Muscat Qasem Hasani Tabatabai the minister said that oil producing countries have so far lost \$73 billion as a result of oil price conspiracy. He added that cooperation of the OPEC members could prevent further losses.

The Omani minister also said he was not in favor of a complete halt in oil production but noted that his country would cooperate with OPEC.

Also in the session the charge d'affaires described recent developments of Iraq-Iran war as well as Iranian latest victories.

Tabatabai referred to the instability of the Iraqi forces and said Iranian combatants intend to decisively oust the Ba'athist regime.

Charge to Harare Meets Zimbabwean Minister

LD181003 Tehran IRNA in English 0820 GMT 18 Mar 86

[Text] Tehran, March 18, IRNA — A Zimbabwean official deplored Iraqi usage of chemical weapons in its war against Iran and said that now it had become clear to all that Iraq is the aggressor.

The Zimbabwean agriculture minister in a meeting with the Iranian charge d'affaires in Harare, Seyyed Aqa'e, expressed hope to visit Iran soon.

The two sides reviewed mutual economic and agricultural ties as well as Iran's victories achieved in the recent Val-Fajr 8 and 9 offensives.

In another meeting with the Iranian charge d'affaires in Harare, the deputy foreign minister of Zimbabwe hoped that a high-ranking delegation of his country would visit Iran soon to discuss expansion of bilateral political and economic relations as well as regional and international issues with Iranian officials.

Greek Police Officer Taps Diplomat's Phone

LD172137 Tehran IRNA in English 1610 GMT 17 Mar 86

[Text] Athens, March 17 IRNA — The Greek political, satirical weekly *PONDIKI (THE MICE)* in its recent issue disclosed a case involving the tapping of the telephone conversations of an Iranian diplomat in Athens by a policeman working for the Greek Intelligence Agency (KYP).

The usually well-informed weekly writes that the policeman, Andreas G. Koupakis, was asked by another foreign diplomat against payment to tap the telephone of the Iranian diplomat last May who lives in the Melissa suburb of Athens. The cultural counsellor of the Iranian Embassy lives in this area. Koupakis bugged the telephone of the diplomat which was linked to a microwave receiver in his car which was parked near the office of the Greek telecommunication organisation of the area.

The policeman's activities were discovered by other colleagues and after a hearing, he was expelled from the Greek police services on 12.12.1985.

Koupakis admitted that the microwave receiver belonged to him, but said that the telephone was followed by another policeman on his account. The *PONDIKI* does not mention who was the diplomat who requested the tapping of the Iranian diplomat.

International Atomic Energy Agency Approves Proposal

LD171346 Tehran IRNA in English 1300 GMT 17 Mar 86

[Text] Bushehr, Bushehr Prov., March 17, IRNA — Iran's permanent representative to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) 'Ali Asghar Sultaniyeh said here Sunday that despite oppositions of the United States in the latest session of the agency, Iran's proposal calling for condemnation of any military attack against atomic establishment, was approved.

Sultaniyeh, currently here to attend the conference on nuclear sciences and technology, added that according to the resolution the violator would be deprived of the agency's membership. He said that due to the active role of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the agency during the past four years, over 130 scholarships have been offered to the Iranian experts in this field.

Referring to the measures taken by Iran within the framework of the agency, Sultaniyeh said that prior to the Islamic revolution, Iran had signed a contract with the U.S. under which the U.S. would supply the required reactor fuel of Iran's atomic energy organization.

But, he added, the U.S. while charging Iran enormous amount of money refrained from delivering the needed reactor fuel.

Therefore, the Islamic Republic of Iran took the issue to the agency and called for the condemnation of the U.S. for threatening the development of nuclear technology in the world.

He expressed hope that within charter of the agency the Islamic Republic of Iran could unite Third World countries to achieve their legitimate rights in the field of nuclear science and technology.

Women Marchers Proclaim Support for Combatant Brothers

LD141602 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 14 Mar 86

[Excerpts] Following the imam of the Islamic nation's guidelines on the preparedness of Muslim revolutionary women for defending the Islamic homeland, and coinciding with the 2,000th day of epics and selflessness during the imposed war, a vast army of pious, committed Mobilization women marched in most parts of the country along the thoroughfares leading to today's Friday prayers. They expressed their support for their combatant brothers and sons on the warfronts and their active presence behind the fronts.

According to reports, a vast army of selfless sisters bearing placards inscribed with slogan "2,000 Days of Resistance!" and chanting the slogans: "War, War, Till Victory;" "We Are the Followers of the Imam;" "We Are Ready for Jihad;" and "Islam's Combatants, Thank You, Thank You" proclaimed their readiness during these marches to learn the military arts.

In Tehran also vast groups of pious women, bearing weapons and placards supporting Islam's fighting combatants, proclaimed their firm resolve in backing their brothers on the battlefronts of good against evil. The companies of the Mobilization sisters once again proved their vast presence on the arenas of revolution and war.

Holding a rally in Tehran University, the marchers adopted an 11-article resolution, which reads:

We, Iran's committed Muslim women, while renewing our allegiance to the imam of the Islamic nation, consider rule by Velayat-e Faqih as an indissoluble principle of the revolution and, while backing and supporting the struggles waged by Islam's combatants against 'Aflaqite Saddam, do hereby proclaim our presence in and help for all the fronts.

Denouncing U.S. plots, put into effect by certain governments to desist from helping the criminal Saddam.

'Numerous' People Said Killed in Iraqi Clampdown

LD142140 Tehran IRNA in English 1728 GMT 14 Mar 86

[Text] Beirut, 14 March, Irna — The Iraqi regime is unabashedly continuing its mockery of human rights. It recently detained and subsequently executed tens of young, according to the daily *AL-HAQIQAH* here Thursday.

The daily said that a human rights official in London has reported to the Human Rights Commission of the United Nations that the Ba'thist regime had killed 200 young adults and arrested 300 others following protest (?demonstrations).

According to the report numerous people have been killed in a curfew clamp-down and house-to-house search by the Ba'thists in that city.

Kurdish 'Revolutionaries' Kill 20 Iraqi Troops

*GF151842 Tehran International Service in Arabic
1730 GMT 15 Mar 86*

[Text] Hizballah Iraqi Muslim Kurdish revolutionaries last Thursday attacked a post belonging to the ruling Ba'thist-Zionist regime in Iraq in (Margasur). They killed 20 Ba'thist troops and destroyed 2 130-mm guns.

Another group of Muslim revolutionaries attacked enemy bases on the road between (Margasur) and (Puratu). They controlled the road for several hours.

Iraq Continues 'Oppressive Policies' Toward Kurds

*LD171523 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 17 Mar 86*

[Text] The Iraqi regime, in line with its oppressive policies toward the Muslim Kurdish people of that country, has devastated 6,000 villages in Iraq's Kurdistan Province since 1975. Also, residents of 1,500 Kurdish villages near Khanaqin, Kirkuk, and (Zingah) have been relocated to other parts of Iraq. According to a Central News Unit report, which quotes reliable sources, the Iraqi regime, overwhelmed by the uprisings by selfless Muslim Kurds, has executed thousands of innocent prisoners at Abu Ghorayb and Mosul. This is being carried out while thousands of Kurdish youths are being tortured at the harshest methods.

Iraqi Kurds Reportedly Attack Government Troops

LD181212 Tehran IRNA in English 1132 GMT 18 Mar 86

[Text] 'U'umiyyeh, W. Azarbaijan Prov., March 18, IRNA — Iraqi Muslim Kurds took control of the Zakhu strategic transit road and attacked an Iraqi military vehicle in the city of Diyanah, northern Iraq, killing all its passengers, during the past few days.

Meanwhile, the Iraqi Muslim Kurds attacked two military garrisons in northern Iraq, killing or wounding a number of Iraqi forces, and seizing large amount of Iraq ammunition.

To retaliate, the Iraqi regime attacked (Hamiri) village along Zakhu road and made its inhabitants homeless after bulldozing the village.

In the aftermath of the victorious Val-Fajr-9 offensive launched by Iran's Islamic combatants in northeastern Iraq, the Baghdad regime is increasing its pressure against the people of the area to enroll in Jaysh al-Sha'bi (the so-called People's Army).

Informed sources in Dhuk reported that the Iraqi regime had dismissed a group of school teachers in the city for not cooperating with the regime in suppressing the people in the area.

Meanwhile, tradesmen in Irbil are refraining from attending their shops as a sign of protest against enrollment in Jaysh al-Sha'bi.

Editorial Warns Iraq's Allies on Continued Support

*GF171615 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian
16 Feb 86 p 1*

[Editorial: "A Warning to Saddam's Supporters"]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Eyewitness accounts by foreign correspondents on the great victories of the Islamic combatants in the "Val-Fajr-8" operations have removed all the deliberate uncertainties of the world oppressors and the supporters of Saddam and have removed all doubt from their minds. The supporters of Saddam know full well that a fatal blow has been given by these victorious operations to the decayed body of their slave. Since disclosure of the true news about these operations would have created many difficulties for them, they kept our victories secret, hoping that in this way they could, for some time at least, keep the world ignorant of the truth. This effort had two motives: They wanted to prevent the world from thinking that the forecasts of the Western analysts, who had months before announced that the Iran-Iraq war had reached a dead end and neither side could attain victory, had gone wrong. The other motive was to give respite to their defeated mercenaries in Baghdad so that they could continue in their slavery a little longer.

But these maneuvers did them no good because everything was known in the end. Even the propaganda machinery of the Zionists and the oppressors, which were silent for the time being, openly admitted the victories and announced what had befallen the shaky regime ruling Baghdad. However, now after the visit of the foreign correspondents to the area of the operations and seeing with their own eyes the port and City of Al-Faw in the possession of the Islamic combatants, everything is known to everybody, even to those who deliberately pretended that they did not know. Now there is nothing they can deny or doubt.

It is now time to advise the supporters of Saddam, but this will be our last advice to them. Listen carefully, you supporters of Saddam. The people who now possess Al-Faw City are Iranian Muslim combatants. They are the same people your mass media said are now unable to advance on any front. You also tried to show that this war had reached a dead end. You have now learned that you and your slave Saddam are helpless in the face of the achievements of the God-seeking combatants of Islam. You know full well now that it is you who have reached a dead end. You now fully understand that you can never correctly evaluate the capabilities and the battle strength of the sons of the revolution. Finally, you now understand the real state of things and you now understand that the strong soldiers of Islam, whenever they want to occupy a part of Iraqi territory, wherever it may be, can do so easily and nobody can stop them.

Now that you understand this, you should come to your senses and not support Saddam, who is nothing but a moving corpse. Saddam and his band are people who, according to your own words, cannot make use of the arms and war material which you place in their hands. They cannot even defend their own existence. Therefore, you should not have any doubt in your mind that he is about to fall and nothing on earth can save him. Now that you know the facts, you better open your ears and take seriously this warning of the Islamic Republic. You should abide by the terms laid down by the Islamic Republic to end the war. It is only in this way that everything will come to an end. Your experience must have shown you that the more you stand against the just and fair terms of the Islamic Republic the more you suffer. What would be better than that is if you learn from the past and do not depend on a person who is about to fall.

The warning of the Iranian nation to the supporters of Saddam, at a time when the victories of the Islamic combatants have become a wonder of the world, is this: If you do not end your support for this war criminal, that what you have seen in the "Val-Fajr-8" operations will continue until the holy land of Iraq is completely rid of the dirty existence of the Ba'athists. As the Islamic combatants have shown, they have the strength to carry out this job too. God Almighty also is their supporter.

Commentary Examines French Relations With Iraq

*GF181935 Tehran International Service in Arabic
1730 GMT 18 Mar 86*

[Station commentary]

[Excerpts] The defeat of the Socialists in France was expected by every French individual who lived through the most difficult phase in French history. The French lived on a land which was corrupted by the policies followed by the Socialists throughout their rule, whether in the field of politics or economics.

Those who will come into power will not be any better than those who have already left, and those who have left power are not any worse than those who will come into power. If we want to be more specific, the strongest candidate to chair the French Government, who is Jacques Chirac, is one of the strongest allies of Saddam's regime. He has always been urging France to increase its aid to this regime. The corrupted method adopted by France in its alliance with Saddam's regime was one of the main factors which caused deterioration of the French situation, whether it was the economic situation, as a result of the declining of the level of the effectiveness of the French companies that set up large investments in Iraq, or the reflection of this situation on the French policy and the developments following the kidnapping of the French hostages.

If those factors are the main reasons behind the fall of the Socialists, then France's adoption of this policy once again under the leadership of the right's government will lead to the fall once again. Any candidate who will chair the government will have before him a list of burdens which were left behind by the Socialist government and which are rooted in the unjust policy adopted during that government's rule.

The continuation of the previous policy will not further deepen the problems on the French arena alone, but will result in a repeat of the government's fall which this time will harm the allies of the French Socialists from among the French right.

IRGC Minister Says Fall of Umm Qasr 'Imminent'

LD201502 Tehran IRNA in English 1454 GMT 20 Mar 86

[Text] Tehran, March 20, IRNA — The Minister of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC), Mohsen Rafiqdust said here Thursday that the fall of the Iraqi port of Umm Qasr and its major naval base was imminent.

Speaking to IRNA he said that the ground and naval units of Iran have brought the major naval base in Umm Qasr and the port facilities under the range of their fire, making its fall definite and imminent.

Praising the role of the volunteers who have joined the Karbala caravans and also the Basij members in the victories gained during the Val-Fajr-8 offensive launched in Al-Faw peninsula, the IRGC minister said that the Basij members liberated the Iraqi port city of Al-Faw.

Through their strong will, he added, the Basij force will soon liberate the holy city of Karbala.

Rafiqdust said that Al-Faw is of a crucial strategic importance and enemy never thought that the Islamic force of Iran will be able to liberate it.

The enemy considered the area invulnerable, he added. However, the Islamic forces took over the city and all Iraqi attempts to retake it have failed, resulting in nothing but more humiliating defeats and higher rate of casualties and damages for Iraq, he stressed. "We are there to stay and will not leave it until we have liberated Iraq," He added.

Rafiqdust said that the plan for formation of the Air Force unit of the IRGC has been prepared and the Majlis has approved the budget for it. The unit will soon be formed and will function alongside the ground and naval forces of IRGC.

Reportage on Combat Operations in War With Iraq

Al-Faw Penetration Attempt Foiled

LD201234 Tehran IRNA in English 1230 GMT 20 Mar 86

[Text] Tehran, March 20, IRNA — The Iraqi attempt to penetrate positions of the Iranian Muslim combatants in Al-Faw peninsula were foiled Wednesday night, said a statement of the Khatam ol-Anbiya' headquarters here Thursday.

It added that Iranian artillery fire pounded two Iraqi companies which tried in vain to infiltrate Iranian positions in north of the salt lake in Val-Fajr-8 operational region.

Scores of Iraqi troops were killed or wounded and the remainder of Iraqi companies were forced to flee, the report said.

Khatam ol-Anbiya' is the joint headquarters of Army and the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps.

Command Headquarters Destroyed

LD201600 Tehran IRNA in English 1550 GMT 20 Mar 86

[Text] Khatam ol-Anbiya' HQ., March 20, IRNA — Iranian jet fighters bombed the Command Headquarters of the Iraqi Army deep inside enemy territory southwest of Minu Islands at 13:00 hours (09:30 hours GMT) Thursday. The headquarters was destroyed.

A military communique published by Khatam ol-Anbiya' headquarters here Thursday said that the Iranian jet fighters after successfully carrying out their mission all returned to their bases safely.

The raid was in continuation of a chain operations carried out by Iranian jet fighters to annihilate the Iraqi forces.

Communique No 2415

LD201723 Tehran IRNA in English 1713 GMT 20 Mar 86

[Text] Tehran, March 20, IRNA — Iranian artillery fire heavily pounded Iraqi positions as well as oil installation of Naft Khaneh and Banmil in the western fronts Wednesday inflicting substantial casualties and losses on Iraqi forces, said a military communique here Thursday.

Communique Number 2415 of the Joint Staff Command of the Armed Forces said that Iranian Muslim forces carried out 21 combat-patrol missions in pre-determined areas in the north-western fronts gathering necessary information and dealing blows to the Iraqi forces. They also continued shelling enemy supply routes and positions.

In areas overlooking Qasr-e Shirin, Iranian forces checked engineering operations of Iraqi troops and forced an Iraqi patrol unit attempting to infiltrate their positions to flee, said the command.

The communique said that exchange of artillery fire between Iranian Muslim forces and Iraqi troops continued in the southern fronts raging somewhat more heavily in Al-Faw peninsula and the Majnun Islands.

Iran's Islamic forces halted reinforcement of Iraqi troops as well as transport of their motorized units and prevented them from setting up mine fields in Chazzabah and Yebis, according to the Joint Staff Command.

In Halaleh and Kani Sheykh, the communique said transport of Iraqi armoured units and vehicles carrying personnel were reconnoitered and stopped by Iranian Muslim combatants.

Meanwhile, on the eve of the Iranian new year beginning March 21st, the Joint Staff Command of the Armed Forces paid tribute to martyrs of the Islamic revolution of Iran and expressed congratulation to the Armed Forces commander-in-chief and Iranian nation.

Iraq Bombs Khuzestan Village

LD201707 Tehran IRNA in English 1703 GMT 20 Mar 86

[Text] Ahvaz, Khuzestan Prov., March 20, IRNA — Iraqi warplanes bombed Gildari, a suburban village of Shadegan in Khuzestan Province at 13:35 hours GMT) Thursday.

A 60-year-old man and a 15 year old youth who were working on a farm were martyred, two others injured and a mini-bus suffered damage in the Iraqi aerial raid.

'Limited Offensive' in Mehran

LD201832 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 20 Mar 86

[Text] The Islamic warriors this morning, during the course of a limited offensive in the operational region of Mehran inflicted some damage on the Zionist enemy. We draw your attention to a report from our correspondent: Following the victories of the Armed Forces and the God-seeking Islamic Forces in the "Val-Fajr-8" and 9 operations, in the early hours of this morning the Islamic forces launched a limited offensive in the operational region of Mehran to destroy Ba'thist enemy military formations and attacked the enemy. Once again they showed they can defeat the deceived forces of Saddam. The Islamic forces during the operations killed 30 and injured 50 of the Ba'thist infidels and also destroyed 12 slit-trenches, 7 observation posts, 5 machine-gun emplacements, 6 mortar launchers of various types, and 5 heavy machineguns.

The forces then returned to their bases safely.

Khatam ol-Anbiya' Communique No 25

LD211149 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 21 Mar 86

[Communique No 25 of the Khatam ol-Anbiya' headquarters, center for the joint operations of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps]

[Excerpt] O ye Muslim and resistant nation! It is the occasion of the birth anniversary of the ninth star in the firmament of rule by the canonist, the holy Imam Mohammad Taqi — may God's peace be upon him — and the arrival of the new year. On this occasion the combatants of Islam, being grateful for the boundless grace of God, the bestower of favors, in granting numerous and impressive victories, have, in unison, along the whole length of the battlefronts, fired star shells, passed greetings to each other, and expressed hopes and desires for the greatness and glory of Islam and Muslims. The combatants of Islam sent messages stating that the true feat and festival will be that day when the roots of injustice, sedition, and corruption are eliminated in the whole globe. They added: Through our continued presence on the battlefronts of war, and through our relentless combat, we have prevented the enemy from embarking on any form of activity and renewed reorganization of enemy forces, and with the assistance of God Almighty, we shall deliver harder blows on the enemy.

The heroic, blasphemy-defeaters of Islam, by firing special shells carrying announcements and by setting up numerous loudspeakers along the length of the battlefronts, especially the front line of the "Val-Fajr-8" operational sector, sent messages in the Arabic language to Iraqi troops. In these messages the powerful combatants of Islam called on the Iraqi Army to come to their senses as soon as possible; to stop supporting and backing the criminal Saddam and his Zionist-Ba'thist Party, who are the cause of inflaming the war; to take refuge in the Islamic Republic of Iran; or to join the Iraqi, Muslim mujahidin and thereby rush to the loving bosom of Islam.

The combatants of Islam, through the full volume of their fire, once again proved their military and power and supremacy, and for the second time deployed heavy long-range artillery fire on the jetty of the besieged naval base of the Iraqis in Umm Qasr, 52 km inside Iraqi territory. A lot of losses and casualties were inflicted on the Saddamists.

Areas in Ahvaz Reportedly Damaged by Iraqi Attacks
GF201832 (Clandestine) Voice of the Liberation of Iran
 in Persian 1630 GMT 20 Mar 86

[Text] A report concerning previously broadcast news indicates that in the attack by Iraqis the day before yesterday on a southern suburb of Ahvaz and the bombardment of Khuzestan Province by Iraqis, the military camp at Hamidiyeh on the Ahvaz-Khorramshahr railroad was badly damaged. The report said that more than 350 soldiers and revolution guards were killed in the attack. All drinking water storage, electricity installations, and communications centers of the Army were destroyed. Our correspondent in Khuzestan Province reports that the electric supply of Ahvaz City has been cut. The bakeries remain open for only 2 hours a day and consumer goods are totally unavailable. There is also a rumor circulating the city that 180 Basij personnel, who were awaiting transportation to the Khatam ol-Anbiya' front in Ahvaz have fled from the city with their arms and ammunition.

Clandestine Notes Conflicts Among Armed Forces
GF161636 (Clandestine) Radio Iran in Persian
 1330 GMT 16 Mar 86

[Excerpts] Esteemed listeners: We wish to draw your attention to a report we have received from nationalist elements (?in Tehran).

This report indicates the schism and discord in the ranks of the corps and the mobilization and their differences with the Armed Forces of Iran. In the last days of the year 1364 [Iranian year] we Iranians are in the throes of the most difficult days of our lives in the past few years of sedition. It is not coincidental that the Khomeyni regime fans the flames of war increasingly on the eve of the new year in a way that it rains blood from heaven and earth and parents don their mourning garb instead of their festive apparel.

It would not be out of place if we present the latest reports on this war to you at this juncture. The efforts of the Islamic Republic's leaders to forge unity among the Armed Forces and the corps and the mobilization are being hampered even though a war is in

progress. Despite the sagacious counsel of the commander in chief of the Armed Forces, the last word of the one who is ostensibly their supporter and unifying factor, they are (?in fact) enemies of one another and live in a state of friction animosity, and uneasy cohabitation.

If Khomeyni had not fanned the flames of the war on the fronts, the wave of differences would have been higher.

In an attempt to probe and confirm this state of affairs we managed to obtain an important classified document which was issued after a violent clash at the end of the month of Azar [22 November to 21 December] in one of the military organizations between the Guards' Corps and the Armed Forces' personnel. Please listen to the text of this document:

From [name indistinct] to a list of recipients: Number 61/204-11/13 dated 1/10/64 [22 December 1985]

Subject: Clash between the personnel of the Guards' Corps and the Islamic Republic's Armed Forces.

Whatever has taken place until now has been under the same statements [sentence as heard] — Imam Khomeyni.

1. According to reports received from various districts the Guards' Corps personnel entered the area under the jurisdiction of the Army units of the Islamic Republic and occupied a section of the Armed Forces base compound.
2. Following the victory of the Islamic revolution in Iran, sections of the Armed Forces bases were placed at the disposal of the Islamic Revolution Guards' Corps of Iran in order to promote cooperation among the various branches. The Guards' Corps personnel expanded the area under their control and occupied most of the area in the bases. As a result of these actions a clash took place between the corps and Armed Forces of Iran personnel.

3. In view of the fact that such clashes are capitalized upon by the counterrevolutionary elements and the enemy fifth column for propagandistic purposes, the details of the clash have been referred to the commander in chief of the Armed Forces in order to resolve the existing problems. It is reiterated that the Islamic Revolution Guards' Corps have been briefed and that the Armed Forces must also refrain from falling into a trap of discord and clashing with the corps. As of today, all matters must be resolved amicably and with unity.

Copies of instructions are being sent for your information and I request that necessary orders be issued so that I can duly inform all the commanders and officials.

[Signed][Word indistinct] Colonel Bahrami, the Islamic Republic of Iran headquarters.

The document that was read out indicates that after a period of 7 years, (?intimidation) maintains its unchangeable stance and continues thus despite all dangers.

Lebanon's Fadlallah Comments on Al-Jumayyil's Rule
LD152057 Tehran IRNA in English 1712 GMT 15 Mar 86

[Text] Beirut, March 15, IRNA — The ruling regime of Lebanon is an obstacle to the progress of the country, said Al-'Allamah Muhammad Fadlallah in Friday prayers sermon here.

Speaking at the Imam Rida mosque, in the Lebanese capital Fadlallah warned that if the U.S. continues to prop up the government of Amin al-Jumayyil then the nation will suffer from such rule.

Fadlallah also condemned the spate of kidnapping in the country especially non-Muslims, saying that no one is allowed to deprive others of their liberty.

He furthermore emphasised that he is adamantly opposed to the disintegration of the country.

Meanwhile, Friday prayers leader of Al-Nabishit village, eastern Lebanon, Shaykh Muhammad Khatun in his sermon spoke on the plots hatched by the arrogant governments against the Islamic revolution. He said their plots stemmed from their fear of the power of the revolution and Iran's victory in the Iraqi imposed war. He also asked why those governments did not manifest their concern at the outbreak of the Iraqi aggression and had done so once it became clear that the Iranian Muslim combatants hold the vantage position in the war.

Afghan Mujahidin Attack Government-Soviet Troops

In Ghazni, Paktika

LD142029 Tehran IRNA in English 1655 GMT 14 Mar 86

[Text] London, March 14, IRNA — The reports received from Ghazni Province stated that the mujahideen of Harkat-e

Enqelabi Islami on February 22 ambushed the Soviet Karmal troops near (Askar Kot) town.

In the course of the attack 11 Soviet Karmal troops were killed and four mujahids were martyred while two Karmal troops joined the mujahideen.

The mujahideen foiled another attack in Dawran Khel area where the invading forces fled leaving behind the wreckage of a tank.

Mujahideen on February 28 blasted an armoured car and a truck loaded with ammunition in Paktika. Three mujahids also sacrificed their lives.

In Nangahar

LD172143 Tehran IRNA in English 1630 GMT 17 Mar 86

[Text] London, March 17, IRNA — A joint Karmal and Soviet troops' camp 7 kilometers from Nazian Township in Shinwar division of Nangarhar Province has been totally destroyed by mujahidin. Nazian was the scene of the bloodiest clashes in Nangarhar last month.

The offensive was dislodged by a joint resistance of various groups of mujahideen, Hezb-i Eslami, Etchad-e Eslami for the liberation of Afghanistan, Hezb-e-Eslami (Khales group) and Karakat Enqilab-ye Islami (Mansur group)

The latest attack on March 8 was commanded by Mr. Hikmatyar, the leader of Hezb-e Eslami. He has been in Nangrahar since mid February to re-organise mujahideen loyal to him.